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LD1002133889 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Afghan mujahidin meeting in Rawalpindi are locked in a "bitter dispute" over the makeup of the shura (consultative council), which is being convened to decide on an interim government, IRNA reported 10 February.

Noting that the problem relates to the demand of the Iran-based factions for 100 seats, the agency said this is unacceptable to the factions in Pakistan, even though Sebghatullah Mojadeddi personally approved the demand during his recent visit to Tehran.

Mojadeddi has now been replaced as chairman of the seven-party alliance, IRNA noted.

In remarks at Friday prayers cited by the agency, Iranian Chief Justice 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili urged the mujahidin not to jeopardize their unity by ignoring the rights of some resistance groups and warned that a scramble for spoils could lead to their defeat.

Resistance sources cited by AFP confirmed that Mojaddedi has been sacked because of his "pro-Iranian" policies and noted that the shura may convene without the Iran-based Shi'ite factions.

Differences between the rival factions were also highlighted in earlier Moscow radio and TASS reports on preparations to convene the shura.

Kabul radio claimed that differences between supporters of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have resulted in clashes inside Afghanistan in which some 200 people have been killed.

In Kabul, the chief of the Afghan Armed FOrces General Staff warned the "extremists" that if they try to seize the capital by force, they will receive a "resolute rebuff," according to TASS.

He said the Afghan Government forces will launch a counter-attack "more severe" than at Qandahar or any of the other cities which they have defended for the past 8 months, AFP noted.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Tariq 'Aziz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran, are expected to hold face-to-face talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general in New York 10 February, KUNA reported.

After meeting with the secretary general the previous day, 'Aziz said Iraq expects that the United Nations will propose a "new diplomatic initiative" to activate the peace talks, INA noted.

He added that the Iraqi Government expects any new peace proposals to take into consideration the vital issues of particular interest to Iraq.

Before leaving Madrid for New York, Velayati announced that Iran will release 260 disabled and injured Iraqi POW's to mark the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, IRNA reported.

In Tehran, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i warned that Iran cannot for long tolerate the current stalemate in the peace talks, the agency noted.

Iran

Amnesty—Fifty prisoners were released in Bushehr Province in accordance with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's amnesty orders, IRNA reported.

"Thousands" of convicts have been released under recent amnesty measures, the agency added.

However, the Mojahedin-e Khalq claimed that some 140,000 political prisoners are being held in Iranian jails, according to AFP.

Drugs and the CIA—A senior official in charge of the anti-drug drive accused the CIA of encouraging drug-smuggling into Iran, where there are around one million addicts, according to IRNA.

Spain Visit—During his 2-day visit to Spain, Foreign Minister Velayati and his Spanish counterpart signed a memorandum of understanding calling for expansion of ties in economic, industrial, and trade fields, IRNA noted.

Iraq

Foreign Minister 'Aziz denied allegations that a coup attempt took place in January, INA reported. Western press reports on an unsuccessful coup attempt in Iraq were highlighted by IRNA.

Israel

In further reaction to the State Department report, the IDF chief of staff said it is "one-sided" and based on "inaccurate" data collected from Palestinians, Jerusalem radio reported.

In contrast, an editorial in THE JERUSALEM POST stated that the U.S. report "does not appear to be at all unbalanced."

The paper criticized Israeli critics of the report who do not distinguish between the uprising and terrorism, thereby playing into the hands of PLO propagandists who are trying to convince the Americans that the PFLP "terrorists" killed in Lebanon recently were "soldiers of the intifadah."

On the situation in the territories, Jerusalem radio reported that an 8-year-old boy died in a Nabulus hospital from wounds received when a "suspicious object" exploded on 4 February.

The clandestine Al-Quds radio claimed the boy died from gunshot wounds.

PLO Affairs

An official PLO spokesman stated that a continuation of the U.S.-PLO dialogue cannot be conditional on halting Palestinian "armed struggle" because resistance to occupation is a right laid down by international law, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported.

On relations with Syria, a Palestinian source cited by Kuwait's AL-WATAN disclosed that Syria has expressed readiness to open a "new chapter" in relations and the PLO has responded by asking the Syrians to meet two conditions.

The PLO wants Syria to explicitly recognize the Palestinian "state" declared by the PNC and to coordinate with the PLO on a joint move to promote an international Middle East peace conference.

If Syria responds to these conditions, there will be a great opportunity for an official meeting between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the source added.

Syria

Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Damascus and was received by Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, Damascus radio reported.

Their discussions dealt with ways to develop relations between the two "fraternal" armies.

In another development, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi held talks with his Jordanian counterpart in Amman within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, Amman radio noted.

Al-Zu'bi had earlier told a YAR newspaper that Syria welcomes any move by Egypt to remove the obstacles between it and Syria, SANA reported.

According to a MENA report on the interview, Al-Zu'bi said he knows that efforts are under way to convene an Arab summit with Egypt's participation, adding Syria welcomes moves that promote Arab solidarity and consolidate its effectiveness.

Lebanon

Security Situation—A rocket was fired at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut but caused no casualties, TASS reported.

In another development, the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio announced that the PSP has taken "strict security measures" following the assassination of PSP official Anwar al-Fatayri.

According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Al-Fatayri was killed near the township of Al-Jahiliyah while on a tour to explain the PSP's initiative encouraging Christian evacuees to return to the Al-Shuf area.

SLA Radio—The South Lebanese Army's Voice of Hope radio has been unheard since 4 February.

According to Beirut radio, the station has been closed down and its equipment moved to Israel.

Sudan

An official source cited by Omdurman radio denied a Khartoum newspaper report that the chairman and members of the State Council have expressed their willingness to resign.

Leaders of the Ummah Party, Democratic Unionist Party, and National Islamic Front will meet shortly for talks on ways to unify the internal front and solve the main problems facing the country, according to a press report cited by SUNA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Patriarchs To Attend Lebanon Committee Talks

LD0902144789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1343 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, Feb 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim Thursday conveyed here two invitations from Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister, chairman of the Arab League's 6-man committee on Lebanon Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, to patriarch of Eastern Orthodox Ignatius the fourth hazim and patriarch of Catholics Maximus the fifth hakim, calling them to attend the committee's Feb 20 meetings in Kuwait.

Al-Jasim, in a statement to KUNA, said the patriarchs accepted the invitation and announced that they will personally participate in the meetings, promising to of [as received] their maximum efforts to ensure success of the committee's endeavor.

The two religious leaders praised the efforts exerted by Kuwait and the Arab Committee to help resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Hazim, told KUNA, "We fully back the commitee and the goal it is aiming at which is achieving peace in Lebanon and to preserve its unity, independence and sovereignty as well as creating an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding among the Lebanese themselves and between Lebanon, Syria and the rest of the Arab countries."

"I hope that other countries' support to the committee's mission would be serious and responsible," he added. Hakim, in a similar statement to KUNA, said "we appreciate such an initiative by the committee's chairman Shaykh Sabah and we have been waiting for it for along time, hoping the mission all the success."

The Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday delivered similar invitations to four of Lebanese spiritual leaders in Beirut.

Palestinian Affairs

Declaration of Provisional Government Postponed

JN1002090289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Feb (WAKH)—Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have said the PLO Executive Committee has adopted a decision to postpone the declaration of a provisional Palestinian government to a later date.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD issued in Abu Dhabi today cited these sources as saying that during its meeting, which continued until yesterday evening under Yasir 'Arafat, the Executive Committee decided to declare this government only on the eve of an international conference for peace so that this government will be responsible for engaging in negotiations. The sources added that the PLO Executive Committee is currently assuming the tasks of a government in accordance with the PNC resolutions. The sources pointed out that the Executive Committee studied several topics during its meeting, including the escalating repressive measures being carried out by the Zionist occupation forces in the occupied Arab territories.

The sources added that the PLO will later give further clarifications to the U.S. side concerning the bases of dialogue between the two parties and the need not to confuse terrorism with the legitimate right to resistance and highlight Israel's interest in foiling the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

PLO Gives Conditions for Dialogue With Syria

JN0902183889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 Feb 89 pp 1, 20

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] AL-WATAN has learned from a high-ranking Palestinian source that Syria has informed the PLO of its full readiness to open a new chapter of relations between the two sides without any reservations or preconditions. The Palestinian source added that this readiness was communicated to the Palestinian side through other parties that are now embarking on mediation efforts between the PLO and Syria—that is, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and the USSR. The source added that the PLO welcomed this readiness demonstrated by the Syrian leadership. However, the source added, the PLO still believes that opening a new chapter of relations cannot be achieved through ceremonial visit [to Syria], during which a Palestinian delegation will meet with the Syrian leadership.

The Palestinian source said: The PLO believes that such a ceremonial meeting like the meeting that was held in the Syrian capital between Yasir 'Arafat and President Hafiz al-Asad after Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] funeral can be held easily. However, such a meeting will not reflect any real political dimensions concerning the bilateral relations that have been tense for years and which further deteriorated after the April meeting.

The source disclosed that the PLO informed the mediators that in order to make the Palestinian-Syrian relations follow a new course they must be based on a clear political ground. The source added that the PLO have set two conditions to lay down this political ground.

First, Damascus should recognize the Palestinian state in an explicit and clear way as a tangible evidence of the recognition of the Palestinian political decisionmaking and approach.

Second, the new relations between the two sides should take the form of political coordination and joint move in the world to mature the circumstances for convening an international peace conference in the Middle East. And this move should be based on the PNC sessions and the resolutions of the Arab summits, particularly the uprising summit in Algiers.

The Palestinian source asserted that if Damascus responds to these two conditions, there will be a great opportunity for holding an official meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and President al-Asad in Damascus in the coming period. The Palestinian source noted that fixing a date for such a meeting depends in the first place on the Syrian response to the Palestinian viewpoint. The Palestinian leadership would receive this response through some PLO leaders in Damascus or through the mediators.

Radio Notes Spokesman's Comment on Operation
JN0902210589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1950 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The PLO has declared that it considers Israel's military presence in southern Lebanon a direct daily threat to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, official PLO spokesman, said resistance to occupation is legitimate and will be pursued by all means until it is ended. Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman added that a continuation of the American-Palestinian dialogue cannot be made conditional on making a commitment to halt Palestinian armed struggle since resistance to occupation is a right recognized by international conventions.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians on 'Uprising'
JN0902184689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Brothers, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has addressed a message of love, greetings, pride, and appreciation to the masses of the blessed popular uprising and to our great Palestinian people's sons in the beloved homeland, in southern Lebanon, and in the diaspora and exiles on the occasion of the beginning of the 15th month of our giant popular uprising.

In his message, brother leader Abu 'Ammar asserted that the hands of the clock cannot be put backwards and that the hour of truth is approaching. He also asserted that neither oppression, nor murder, tyranny, demolishing of houses, causing women to miscarry, prisons, detention camps, and the armed settlers' crimes can subjugate our people. He affirmed that our people's willpower will triumph because it originates from the will of God and that this land is Arab and will remain Arab, whether the settlers like it or not.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: By our people's entrenched unity and our masses' awareness and abiding by the resolutions of our PNC, all suspect Israeli maneuvers and plans have been buried in their cradle and the clear picture was affirmed; that is, there is no alternative to recognizing our people's national rights, foremost of which are their right to self-determination, repatriation, and establishing their independent state. Our masses' determination was entrenched, declaring that it is an uprising, an uprising until the independent state is established, and a steadfastness until achieving that victory.

'Arafat Leaves for Riyadh for Brother's Funeral
NC1002071589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stopped over in Cairo this morning while en route to Riyadh.

Eng Ra'uf Jamal 'Arafat, who resides in Cairo, said that the Palestinian leader will be leaving for Riyadh to attend the funeral of his elder brother Jamal 'Arafat, who died in Riyadh this morning following a heart attack. Ra'uf added that his father, Jamal 'Arafat, had a heart attack in Sanaa, where he was working as Palestine's ambassador. He noted that his father was taken to Riyadh aboard a private plane for treatment, but died there.

'Arafat left Cairo aboard a private plane after a short stay. [passage omitted]

He was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi and Ambassador Sami Thabit, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry. Ambassador Hijazi extended the Egyptian Government's condolescences to Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

PNC Speaker Discusses Developments, Outlook
PM2601124489 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 23 Jan 89 pp 22-23

[Interview with PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaytun] How would you assess the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue after the first round of talks?

[Al-Sa'ih] I consider the dialogue to be based on the U.S. step toward the PLO, which is a wise one. It proves that Washington has begun to feel that its previous policies were erroneous. These polices were based on a disregard for the PLO and blatant bias toward the Zionist enemy, especially since that bias was beginning to threaten U.S. interests in the region as a whole and in the Arab world in particular. But we are not optimistic about bringing the dialogue to the point where we can have stronger relations with the United States than those we have with our enemies. We will work toward developing that dialogue to the stage of exerting pressure on Israel to respond to the international community's wishes as reflected recently in Geneva, namely, with regard to the need to convene an international peace conference

involving PLO participation, to recognize the Palestinian state, and to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Are you optimistic about genuine U.S. pressure being put on Israel and its producing the desired results? Do you expect such pressure to be more noticeable during the era of the new President, George Bush?

[Al-Sa'ih] Up until now, the U.S. position remains biased toward Israel. It still supports the falsehood of Zionism. I believe that this position is in the interests of neither the U.S. people nor Arab-U.S. friendship. We hope that during the next era the U.S. Administration will realize where the U.S. people's interests lie, thus easing and reducing its support for Israel and responding to the Palestinian people's demands and the PNC's recent position. We hope that President Bush, who assumed his responsibility as vice president under President Reagan and has reviewed all the facts about the Arab-Israeli conflict, will adopt a more balanced position responsive to the interests of Arab-U.S. friendship as well as to those of the U.S people. We also hope that Bush will achieve a great deal in this regard so the United States can assume its responsibility in preserving peace and eliminating anxieties and unrest in this region and in other parts of the world.

[Zaytun] How do you assess the Soviet position?

[Al-Sa'ih] We are confident that the Soviet Union's position on that conflict reflects a greater understanding of all the facts and is closer to neutrality. This is why we are calling for an international conference attended by the five permanent member states [of the U.N. Security Council], which is effective and empowered to make and implement decisions and to adopt a decisive stand. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Did the Soviets not provide any assurance that they would exert pressure on the United States during their summits in response to Palestinian wishes?

[Al-Sa'ih] The Soviet Union did not provide any assurances about putting pressure on the United States. We received no assurances from anyone. We rely on our struggle, the uprising, and the justice of our cause for regaining our rights, realizing our aspirations, and implementing our decisions.

[Zaytun] Do you not think that the initiation of the dialogue with the United States will speed up the possibility of convening the international conference? And can you determine an approximate date for it?

[Al-Sa'ih] I cannot determine a date for the international conference, for that depends on the position of the two giants and their desire to move toward world peace. Nevertheless, I do not believe it is far off.

[Zaytun] Do you believe that Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] address was in line with PNC resolutions?

[Al-Sa'ih] The PNC's position is the resolutions that it adopted in Algiers, which include the proclamation of the state, the formation of the provisional government, and the political statement. As for anything apart from that, it is not the council's concern and the responsibility for it should be shouldered by those who make the interpretation, explanation, or clarification. The versions referred to were drafted by the the Palestinian leadership represented by the PLO Executive Committee, including Commander in Chief Brother Abu 'Ammar and the PNC leadership. This is why when certain news agencies asked about the meaning of some phrases in the proclamation of the state, namely, its establishment on Palestinian territory, my reply was that the proclamation's phrases were drafted carefully. They are clear and everyone can understand them in his own way, but the PNC has no explanations or clarifications to add to them.

[Zaytun] Do you fear that the opposition shown at the PNC could grow stronger following Abu 'Ammar's address?

[Al-Sa'ih] I would like to point out that when the proclamation of the state was put to the vote none of the organizations opposed it. In fact it was unanimously approved. Furthermore, there were no differences over the decision on the formation of a government. It was also unanimously approved. As for the political statement, most of its clauses were unanimously approved, but the clause on Resolutions 242 and 338 was subject to opposition from some organizations such as the PFLP, Popular Struggle Front, Palestine Liberation Front, and Arab Liberation Front. But I did not receive any memorandum on the viewpoint of those who differed with or opposed the clause referring to the two resolutions in question. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Can we say that the independence document was based on the partition Resolution 181 of 1947? And why did you accept it after 41 years of rejection?

[Al-Sa'ih] It is untrue that the independence proclamation and document are based on Resolution 181. The proclamation of the state is based on our natural and historical right to the territory of our homeland, Palestine.

Just as a reminder, Resolution 181 said that a historic injustice was committed against the Palestinian people: It was because they were made homeless and denied the right to self-determination that the resolution was issued immediately afterward. So the resolution, despite the injustice it inflicted on our people, grants them the legitimate right to establish their own state on their own territory.

[Zaytun] What form will the Palestinian state assume, especially since the document did not specify whether its framework will be republican or monarchical?

[Al-Sa'ih] With regard to determining whether the state or the government will be a presidential or parliamentary republic or whatever else, this will be dealt with when drawing up the constitution. It is premature to discuss these matters. This is why the political statement, the proclamation of the state, and the decision to form the government did not broach anything of this kind.

[Zaytun] How can the state be established when Israel rejects it and refuses to withdraw from its territories?

[Al-Sa'ih] I believe it is the international position that can influence Israel. And when the United States, in particular, adopts the stand of a responsible major country, there will be a chance of eliminating the occupation and forcing any Israeli Government to withdraw.

[Zaytun] What is your view of the Arab role in achieving the desired results?

[Al-Sa'ih] We hope that the Arab leaders will make a move and shoulder their material and political responsibility in this regard in order to exert pressure on the United States and the other states backing Israel to force them to withdraw and give the Palestinian and Arab peoples the chance to enjoy a calm life and to build. And also to enjoy what other peoples enjoy, namely, the right to self-determination and to build a state. All this requires that the Arab states work to change the balance of power in their favor. This because the Arab states combined can play a notable role in this regard and achieve a result that will guarantee the interests of their peoples as well as the interests of the cause, which is an Arab nation's prime and central cause.

[Zaytun] When do you expect a provisional government to be formed?

[Al-Sa'ih] We said that the formation of the provisional government depends on political conditions. And we believe that once the decision has been made to proceed with the international conference it will be an opportunity to form the government. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Some accuse you of ignoring the armed struggle in favor of a settlement.

[Al-Sa'ih] The PNC did not decide to stop the armed struggle, and we cannot decide to stop the uprising before it achieves its objectives.

Khalaf on Proposed Provisional Government

JN0702091689 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Feb 89 pp 1, 17

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf by Ibrahim 'Abd al-Latif and Al-Sayyid Taha—date, place not given]

[Text] [AL-YAWM] We have heard several statements on the future Palestinian government. Some say it will be declared soon, others say that this issue is still under discussion, and some others say its declaration is still premature. We want to know the exact stand toward the Palestinian government.

[Khalaf] The recent PNC resolution in Algiers favored postponing the Palestinian government with the aim of creating the appropriate political atmosphere for the declaration of the government. I believe that the appropriate atmosphere, the convening of an international conference, or entering a stage of negotiations [sentence incomplete as published] Despite this, we have postponed the issue of the Palestinian government, and the PNC resolutions referred it to the legal committee for consideration.

This committee will study the relationship between the government and the PLO, the role of the government and the PLO, and the tasks of both the government and the PLO. All these and other questions have been referred to the legal committee. The legal committee should complete its discussion of this issue on 10 February, and will submit its report to the Palestinian leadership, which will meet on 15 February. During this meeting, it will be decided whether the government should be declared within 1 or 2 months, or whether it should be postponed until further notice and until the appropriate political atmosphere is created.

There are two approaches within the Palestinian leadership. The first approach demands the speedy declaration of the government, because there are some states, such as Japan and France, that say they cannot recognize the independent Palestinian state unless it has its own government, which should act as a new form of action before the world. The second approach says that the presence of several executive sides, such as the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian government, and the Palestinian leadership, would further complicate matters, so why not wait until we see that the political situation has become ripe and reached the stage of negotiations within the framework of the international conference, and only then declare the government, so as to avoid the confusion resulting from the existence of several leaderships. The Palestinian leadership's meeting on 15-20 February will settle this issue.

[AL-YAWM] What is the proposed formation of the government? Will it include personalities from the occupied Arab territories, especially since there has been much talk about these personalities' acceptance and rejection of participating in this government?

[Khalaf] The PNC resolutions are binding. These resolutions stipulate that the government should include personalities from inside and outside the occupied territories. However, the number of ministers from inside and outside the occupied territories has not yet been determined. The PNC resolutions have settled this issue, and it needs no individual judgment. The government that will be formed will include Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, and we cannot accept any individual judgment on this issue.

[AL-YAWM] You have said that there is a trend to proclaim the Palestinian government soon, given that certain states, like France and Japan, refuse to recognize the Palestinian state unless there is a Palestinian government. To date, France has not offered the PLO what is required of it. Indeed, the French stand has so far not been clear. Could you explain this?

[Khalaf] The European stand in general, including that of France, has so far not reached the same level as PLO decisions, as apparent both in the PNC and in 'Arafat's speech at the Geneva UN meeting. France has taken only one step; namely, promoting the level of the PLO Paris office to the status of a Palestinian legation. This is not embassy level but is higher than office level. France was supposed to extend an invitation to Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, to pay an official visit to France. Europe was supposed to recognize the PLO or the Palestinian state. The European moves are still slow. We can say that only the British position has realized relative progress in this regard. The British stand toward the PLO was bad, but now it is reasonable. The British Government dispatched Minister of State William Waldegrave to Tunis to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and the brothers there. He also received the PLO representative twice. Waldegrave's statements are a new development. All of this shows a British move for the better. France only raised the status of the PLO office.

Concerning the European stand as a whole, the FRG position is being subjected to Zionist blackmail, given the guilt complex resulting from the Nazi era and the German attitude toward the Jews. A joke currently circulating says that the FRG might recognize the Palestinian state, but only 2 months after Israel has done so. This is because the FRG is being subjected to serious Zionist blackmail.

[AL-YAWM] Europe is hosting unofficial Palestinian-Israeli meetings that are greatly highlighted by the media. What is your position on these meetings?

[Khalaf] The Palestinian-Israeli meetings in Europe are not new. However, they are not connected with the recent PLO decisions. Europe has been arranging unofficial meetings between Israelis and Palestinians for a long time. However, the same routine is being followed even after the PNC decision and 'Arafat's Geneva speech. The Israelis on one side, the Palestinians on the other, and the Europeans in the middle. But there is no discussion or direct talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. They do not even shake hands.

A meeting was also held in France and in The Hague in the Netherlands. In The Hague, senior Israeli personalities, including former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, attended the meetings. However, no official meeting has been held with them. In fact, the Israelis do not directly face the Palestinians. This is out of fear of the Zionist decision to sentence anyone meeting with the PLO to 3 years imprisonment. During those meetings in France and the Netherlands, no new action has taken place. Journalists have photographed the Israeli delegation turning their faces away from the Palestinian delegation. This is despite the fact that this delegation is from the doves, as they say in Israel. This indicates the extent of extremism that still exists in Israeli society.

[AL-YAWM] 'Arafat recently met with an American Jewish delegation in Sweden. This delegation has said that it will take upon itself the holding of a joint U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Washington. How true is this?

[Khalaf] There is an antidiscrimination society in the United States that includes American Jews. This society has invited Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to give a lecture there. However, Abu 'Ammar cannot go there without meeting U.S. officials. This is what happened. However, they have promised. [sentence as published]

You probably know that the Jewish movement in the United States includes more than 20 organizations. So far, we have no relations with the major Jewish movement in the United States. However, there are some small Jewish movements, such as that of Rita Hauser and those who support her such as "the permanent conference for peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis." This group does not include a large number of Jews. It includes some personalities. However, it is not influential. We have not so far met with the true Zionist body in the United States. Its stand is still completely similar to the Israeli stand. As I have said, the antidiscrimination society has invited Abu 'Ammar. However, Abu 'Ammar will not accept this invitation without meeting U.S. officials.

[AL-YAWM] What are your expectations regarding the administration of George Bush, who participated in U.S. decisionmaking in the past and who is now dealing with a new situation created by the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories?

[Khalaf] Let us say that we should be optimistic. We are optimistic that President Bush's era will be more responsive to the Arab and Palestinian rights. Reagan was neither interested in the Middle East nor in the Palestine question. His interest focused on Europe, relations with the USSR, the Star Wars plan, missiles, and on strengthening U.S. economic and military force. These were Reagan's interests. Reagan was a President who did not make decisions, he had decisions made for him. On the contrary, Bush, through his posts as his country's ambassador to the PRC, UN envoy, a CIA director, and as a U.S. vice president for 8 years—all this gives him the experience to make decisions without having them made for him. From this angle, we are optimistic that President Bush's era will be more moderate in dealing with the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question, and that he will not be biased toward Israel. The coming days will prove how true our optimism is.

[AL-YAWM] What is the PLO position on the elections that Israel is intending to hold in the occupied territory?

[Khalaf] Let us look at the reason for the Israeli elections. They are either to find an alternative leadership for the Palestinian people or to divide the Palestinian cause by establishing a leadership representing part of the Palestinian people. We reject both. We reject any alternative leadership and the people in the occupied territory also reject any such leadership.

What is important is that in 1976, we agreed on elections in the occupied territory. What happened to those who were elected? The election results were in favor of the PLO, and Israel tried to kill the elected mayors Bassam al-Shak'ah and Ibrahim al-Tawil and deported others like Fahd al-Qawasimah, Muhammad Milhim, 'Abd al-Jawwad Salih, and others. Only one or two mayors remained. Ilyas Frayj is one. The others were expelled. Then why have another experiment with Israel? If Israel wanted to deal with the Palestinian people's representatives, it would not have killed, terrorized, or expelled them.

The important thing is that Israel is seeking any means to kill the uprising. By holding elections, Israel will seek to weaken the Palestinian people's forces. The moment elections are held, various candidates will begin competition, and the people will start thinking of elections rather than the uprising. By the time the elctions end, the uprising will have ended. All of this just for the sake of elections. All the candiadtes say they will not negotiate with Israel.

Elections are a means of polishing Israel's image. Israel forgets that these elections do not represent the Palestinians' opinion abroad. How can this opinion be sounded? Israel wants to kill the uprising and tell the world that it is seeking a solution of the Palestinian problem.

Nevertheless, we do not reject elections. Let Israel pull out of the West Bank and Gaza and hand these territories over to UN emergency forces. Then elections could start. We do not object to hearing the opinion of our people there. I am sure they will back the PLO. We oppose elections under occupation because they will not be fair elections but will be meant to kill the uprising.

[AL-YAWM] What would be your attitude if Israel demanded the implementation of the part in the Camp David agreement that deals with the Palestinians, given Shamir's peace plan, which invokes the Camp David agreements?

[Khalaf] Had we wanted to accept Camp David, we would have done so in 1978 and spared ourselves this long battle. How can we accept it now, after Egypt itself has renounced it? President Mubarak has suspended the part that deals with the Palestinians. Egypt's firm decision to recognize the Palestinian state was aimed at eliminating the Palestinian part of Camp David. Therefore, we say that Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state is the beginning of a new phase because it contradicts the Palestinian part of Camp David. Camp David stipulates a 5-year period of automoy to be followed by a meeting, including all parties with each party having the veto right. All this is over and done with in my opinion.

Now, Israel must face reality and realize that the Palestinian people will accept nothing less than their right to self-determination. Under no circumstances will our people accept the return to Camp David [Accords]. It must also realize that history never goes back, especially since the side that signed the Camp David Accords—that is Egypt—has reneged on these accords since President Mubarak assumed office. He also froze the part connected to the Palestinians. Then came the proclamation of the Palestinian state, which Egypt recognized, thus writing off Camp David once and for all.

[Al-YAWM] For the sake of argument, if we accept that Israel will withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza and accept the establishment of the Palestinian state, then this state will be geographically separated. Is this possible?

[Khalaf] If there was a just solution to the Palestinian question, then the territories occupied in 1967 do not represent the partition resolution adopted by the United Nations. For us to accept the establishment of the Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967, there must be a clear corridor connecting the West Bank with Gaza. Without this corridor, it will be a divided state. For a just and permanent settlement to be achieved, there must be a geographical connection between Gaza and the West Bank. Even if this was made, we would have made many concessions on the partition resolution.

[AL-YAWM] But this corridor that connects the West Bank with Gaza will divide the Israeli entity. How is this possible?

[Khalaf] If there is to be a just solution, and if there is to be coexistence between the two states, then all this can be arranged and there can be interaction on certain issues. The international conference will be able to determine all this. After all, Palestine is not very large in area, and we will not build a Berlin Wall between us and them.

[AL-YAWM] Can you shed some light on Palestinian-Syrian relations? In addition, where do they currently stand?

[Khalaf] We tried many times to improve our relations with the Syrian brothers. The latest attempt was when brother Abu Jihad, Khalil al-Wazir, was martyred. We carried the martyr's body and went to Damascus in the hope that his body would enable us to open hearts and minds. A large delegation from the [PLO] Executive Committee and [Fatah] Central Committee went and had a good meeting with President Al-Asad. We also met

with brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. But, regrettably, conditions came under discussion and it was apparent that there was an attempt to impose conditions without an agreement.

The PLO rejects conditions, rejects haggling, and rejects any solution that entails any kind of guardianship from any one. Thus, the attempt failed. However, we will continue to open our hearts to our brothers in Syria without any conditions. We will also continue to open our minds to any Arab relation. We are against Arab estrangement and nonsensical talk. We are also against being drawn into side battles with any one.

However, we have our dignity and conditions. Our conditions are that no one should intervene in our affairs just as we do not intervene in anybody else's affairs. This is our only condition. We are very interested in relations with Syria, but with dignity, because relations without dignity are only relations between servant and master. We only have our dignity, and we will never give it up.

[AL-YAWM] We have heard that there is mediation by the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] between the PLO and Syria. Where has this mediation reached?

[Khalaf] No one informed us of this mediation. Our relations with the Kingdom are excellent. However, it is known that President al-Asad's visit to the Kingdom was to bring relaxation to the tense Arab atmosphere so as to create a minimum level of Arab solidarity. Certainly, the Kingdom, which has always supported Arab solidarity, is exerting efforts to settle differences among Arab brothers. It always seeks to create a minimum level of accord among all brothers. The Kingdom has always been first in this field. Its mediation has always given its fruits to the Arab nation. It is not strange for the Kingdom to do so because it has taken this matter upon itself. However, I stress to you that no one has informed us of this mediation. We appreciate the Kingdom's concern for Arab solidarity. Without the Kingdom's continuous efforts, this current Arab solidarity, which has been absent for a long time, would not have been achieved.

[AL-YAWM] Can you shed light on the quadripartite economic grouping among Egypt, Jordan, the YAR, and Iraq, especially since it has been said that Syria, Lebanon, and the State of Palestine, God willing, will join this grouping in the future?

[Khalaf] On the geographic level, we notice that there are Arab groupings such as the GCC, which is a successful experiment on the political, economic, and security levels. There is another experiment that is heading toward success in the Arab Maghreb. There will also be an Arab Maghreb summit within the next few weeks. These are regional blocs on political and economic bases. They are thus far on the right course because they contribute to Arab solidarity. This recent grouping, with regard to Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon, is still deferred. It is clear that the states that form the GCC and the Arab Maghreb have begun to achieve unity among themselves as a kind of bloc. It is also clear that they have called it an economic grouping because it has no political nature and it does not constitute an axis. We say that if these groupings are aimed at mobilizing the Arab forces with the objective of facilitating the Arab League's meetings through these political or economic units, then we support them. The important thing is that they should not turn into axes to fight each other in the future.

[AL-YAWM] We would like to know the conditions that Syria has set to establish relations with the PLO?

[Khalaf] I will tell you about the past. Among Syria's conditions in the past are that we should not establish relations with Egypt; and that we should not pay attention to progressive Israeli forces, to consider them as if they do not exist; and not to hold any dialogue with them. I can say that these are the most important conditions.

If we discuss these two conditions, we will see that Syria has relations with more than 15 Arab states that have relations with Egypt. However, it does not set the conditions to them that it sets to the PLO. Another thing is that we are leading a revolution, and the most important of its objectives is to deal with and fragment the enemies' camp. In light of this, if there are Israeli forces that say they support the PLO and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and are against Israeli hegemony and measures in the occupied territories, then how can we ignore them?

All revolutions in the world attempt to divide the enemy front by winning some of their enemies to their side or neutralizing some of them. For example, when the Sabra and Shatila massacres occurred, 400,000 Jews in Israel took to the streets to demonstrate against this massacre. This demonstration had to be exploited in favor of the Palestinian cause. Despite all this, let me tell you again that we open our hearts to Syria. Syria is our partner in the international peace conference. We are eager to have Syria at our side. At a news conference in Amman, brother Abu 'Ammar called for an Arab committee composed of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine for coordination and preparation for the international conference because it is inconceivable to go to the conference and exhibit our differences there. Therefore, we are eager to maintain relations with Syria, provided Syria does not impose conditions on us. We are not prepared to accept conditions.

[AL-YAWM] Why has the U.S.-PLO dialogue not resumed despite the repeated assertions that the dialogue would resume as soon as Bush takes over?

[Khalaf] Let us be realistic. This is a new administration. It will take 1 or 2 months to get settled, especially since the Middle East problem is a difficult one. Moreover, Zionist eyes are wide open, watching Bush. Let us give this administration time. The important thing is to start

the dialogue. I would like to reveal to you that meetings are currently taking place between the PLO and U.S. ambassadors in various Arab, European, and other capitals. Such meetings were banned in the past. It is true that the official channel of communication is Tunis, but there are other channels in more than one place. The dialogue has really started but without announcements. Sometimes, the U.S. ambassador in an Arab or European country contacts the PLO office. Meetings are held and certain things discussed. The dialogue is continuing, but it is very slow. We do not expect things to turn 180 degrees in one moment. Our path will be long until the United States approaches a neutral stand. This requires an immense Arab effort, in addition to our efforts to contribute toward strengthening the dialogue, until the United States takes a neutral stand.

[AL-YAWM] The PLO has repeatedly warned of an Israeli aggression against Lebanon. What are your predictions on such an aggression?

[Khalaf] Israel has been facing a dilemma, has been cornered, since the PNC resolutions were issued and 'Arafat made his speech in Geneva. Israel has been isolated. World public opinion, which has been siding with Israel for a long time, is abandoning it. We are forcing Israel to drink from the same bitter cup from which it used to make us drink. Israel is isolated. Public opinion in Europe feels that Israel has withdrawn into its own shell, that it does not want peace. We expect this isolation to continue for 6 or 8 months. During this period, Israel will continue to adhere to its hardline position, will not offer concessions, and will ignore all public opinion calls for peace.

We have definite information that Israel will mount a series of military and security actions in more than one direction, one of which will be Lebanon. There will be a temporary Israeli occupation, during which Israel will try to wipe out the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters. This aggression may develop into a clash with the Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' valley. Israel will aim at diverting attention from the uprising and from the Palestinian political moves by mounting a new hostile action.

Some circles say that Israel may provoke Jordan in order to create a new reality so as to distract attention from the current reality that is pushing the Israelis into a corner and making them yell and unable to decide what to do. This is taking place for the first time. Arens admitted this himself and said Israel is in isolation. This is one approach.

In another approach, they will try to carry out a large-scale campaign of assassinations against PLO leaders. Along with these two approaches, they will try to make proposals, such as elections and a mini-international conference to be attended by the United States and the Soviet Union only, and in which a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would participate. These are political initiatives to cover up the aggressive acts they will carry out. We expect this until the end of 1989. We are confident that they must bow before the storm, accept an international conference, and accept PLO negotiators. The PLO and the Arab nation must hold fast in 1989. We must not give any more concessions. We must improve and consolidate the uprising because all Israel is trying to do is to stop the uprising on the one hand and to distract attention from the Palestinian move on the other.

We are exerting great efforts to maintain the uprising, the PLO, and a minimum level of Arab solidarity so that all the Arabs are supporting the Palestine question in this political battle, which is the hardest of battles. We are now playing the game of biting fingers with Israel to see who yells first. If the Arabs hold fast until the end of 1989, we will witness a major political transformation toward the Palestine question.

[AL-YAWM] What is your stand on an international conference, especially since we have seen no clear Arab stand on this conference?

[Khalaf] At the Algiers and Casablanca summit conferences, the Arabs unanimously agreed on an international conference to be attended by the five big powers. They said the PLO will participate either through a separate delegation or within a joint Arab delegation. We accept these two proposals. If Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt form a joint Arab delegation, we will be part of it. We insist on Egypt's participation in an international conference, although they say that Egypt has solved its problem. This is in view of its legal position in Gaza. However, if they form independent delegations, we will have ours. We will not accept participation in a Syrian-Palestinian or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation while other delegations are independent. This is because we accept no trusteeship from any side. We only accept an independent delegation or a joint Arab delegation.

[AL-YAWM] The world mass media carried a U.S.-Soviet plan to settle the Palestine question through the convocation of an international conference and the declaration of an independent Palestinian state for half an hour, after which a confederation would be announced with Jordan. How will that be done?

[Khalaf] Let me tell you that declaring a Palestinian state for half an hour is a theatrical move. What kind of state will be declared for half an hour and then confederated with another state? This is unrealistic. The PNC resolution is that, after the declaration of the Palestinian state, a referendum would be held by the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples to freely vote on a confederation. Without a referendum, there would be unity between unequal sides. We are ready to be in a confederation with Jordan. This confederation has its conditions and details. These will all be studied and then proposed for the two peoples to vote on. As I said, declaring a state for half an hour is a theatrical move.

[AL-YAWM] How do you view the status of Jerusalem when the independent Palestinian state is established?

[Khalaf] All of Palestine without Jerusalem is not worth anything. If Israel claims that it is important to Jews, then it is more important to all Muslims throughout the world, who constitute a big power in the world in number and population. The issue of Jerusalem is not open for discussion. Jerusalem is our capital, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and even the Wailing Wall, which they talk about. However, we can tell the world that the three religions will be free to reach their holy places in Jerusalem, but under Arab, Islamic, and Palestinian supervision.

It is true that the Partition Resolution states that Jerusalem will be under international supervision, but Israel rejected this. Moreover, Resolution No 242 stipulates withdrawal from all the occupied territories, and because Jerusalem was with the Arabs in 1967, then we take Resolution No 242 as an indivisible whole. If we have to search for a solution at the international conference, we will do so. However, any solution that does not recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state will not be a solution. As I have said, all of Palestine without Jerusalem is not worth anything.

[AL-YAWM] There are certain western circles that try to accuse the PLO of bombing the Pan Am plane over Scotland. What is the Palestinian and Arab stand toward these accusations?

[Khalaf] All information has proved Mosad's connection with this operation. In order to exonerate Mosad, certain sides attempt to accuse the Palestinians. We are confident that there are no Arab hands behind this operation whatsoever, and that this operation was perpetrated by the Zionist Mosad in an attempt to deceive the world into thinking that the Palestinians perpetrated this action. Moreover, some FRG circles have come up with decisive proof that Mosad officers were responsible. The U.S. story is that some sides put an explosive liquid in [the suitcase] of a U.S. intelligence officer in Beirut. Is this reasonable? It is a weak accusation. However, all this is to exonerate Israel.

The United States, Britain, and the FRG know full well that Mosad was behind this operation. However, when it comes to accusing Israel, you will find someone immediately ready to defend it. The Arabs have no interest at all in such action. In addition to this, the technology used in this operation is sophisticated. The European circles have their tools. Even from a technical viewpoint, the Arabs cannot do this.

[AL-YAWM] Are there economic difficulties facing the establishment of the Palestinian state?

[Khalaf] I proudly say that there will be no difficulties before the Palestinian state. Although the West Bank is under occupation, it now has six universities, with the absence of a state or official authority, and they are all run from outside. Moreover, this state will be the state of the Arabs and Muslims, who will not leave it to stand alone. If some economic difficulties emerge at the beginning, the Arab people will overcome them. The important thing is first to establish the state.

[AL-YAWM] Israel is trying to give world public opinion the impression that it is executing the laws set by Britain during its mandate. What information policy is there to confront these falsehoods?

[Khalaf] Regrettably, there is no integrated Arab information strategy despite the fact that Arab ministers of information meet every year. The Zionist laws do not adhere to British laws, but they go far beyond them. Take, for example, the deportation policy. Britain used to deport leaders to the Seychelles for a period of time and then they would return. Israel deports ordinary citizens, who can never return. In Israel, they go beyond all laws—laws of administrative detention and prisons for example.

It is known that there is the Geneva Convention that governs the relation between occupation authorities and the original inhabitants, but Israel does not abide by it. Israeli rule is an opportunist rule. It does not recognize any laws or resolutions.

The Arab media's duty abroad, particularly in the Zionist home in the United States [sentence as published]. For example, in Washington, there are 22 Arab embassies, which do not have any coordination among them in the information field, at a time when we must concentrate our efforts in the United States to change world public opinion so that we can win it to our side, especially since we now have the uprising. These people are neutral and if they watch on television the occupation troops firing bullets at a child, beating a woman, or breaking a youth's limbs with stones, then these pictures can shake the whole world.

However, the Arab media do not follow this up on western and U.S. television through special films.

[AL-YAWM] There is an accusation directed against the PLO that it took a long time to recognize Resolution 242, especially since 'Abd al-Nasir accepted it in 1967. What is your answer to this?

[Khalaf] 'Abd al-Nasir said that the Palestinians are not required to recognize this resolution. True, the Palestinians are not required to recognize it and if it were not for the Arab situation, we would not have accepted recognizing it. But then came the uprising, King Husayn's step to disengage relations with the West Bank, and international detente between the two superpowers.

These three factors have made us think practically. The first thing we did was to proclaim the Palestinian state in order to fill the deficit in Resolution 242 on Palestinian rights. Hence, Resolution 242 now pertains to withdrawal from the 1967 occupied territories, which, God willing, the Palestinian state will be established on.

Egypt

Sidqi: Emergency Law Averted Regime's 'Collapse'

JN0902182189 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Feb 89 p 1

[By Ahmad al-Ba'thi and Jamal Yunis]

[Text] The Al-Wafd parliamentary group has announced that the Al-Wafd Party rejects Dr 'Atif Sidqi's statement to the People's Assembly. The parliamentarians who belong to the opposition alliance have also rejected the government's statement.

Commenting on remarks by People's Assembly members, Sidqi declared that had it not been for the emergency law, the entire regime [al-nizam] would have collapsed with all its political, economic, and social pillars. He said that the government cannot shirk its duties toward the fierce onslaughts that are threatening society with collapse.

The prime minister said: The emergency law was issued with the approval of the People's Assembly and was extended to face special circumstances also with the People's Assembly's approval. If these circumstances end, the government will be the first to ask the People's Assembly to abrogate the law.

The prime minister said that the amendment to the political parties law is contingent on the desire of the majority in the People's Assembly.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Arab Ties, U.S., Israel

NC0902160189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Paris, 9 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and Director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that Egypt is open to the whole world and that it does not bargain in order to put its relations with Syria or Libya on a right and normal course, like that its relations with others [illegible]on.

Al-Baz stressed that Egypt's relations with both Syria and Libya are governed by the same principles that govern its relations with other Arab countries. He noted that indirect contacts have indeed been made with both Tripoli and Damascus.

In an interview with the Paris-based AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt is capable of playing a significant Arab role. This does not mean leading the Arab action, but being a pioneering power in it, he said.

In the interview to be published on Friday, the Egyptian official warned the Arab nation against allowing foreign influence to get the better of its members. He appealed to the Arab countries to break free from the axes which are bound to weaken Arab nationalism.

Touching on the Arab economic grouping comprising Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the YAR, Dr al-Baz emphasized that it does not represent an axis, but is instead a step on the road to unified Arab action. He explained that it is an attempt to develop a new form of cooperation and integration among Arab countries through gradual and phased action to establish the foundations for intellectual, cultural, economic, and political communication.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that the proposed grouping will facilitate the optimal use of Arab resources and potential for the benefit of Arab countries. He added that today's world is marked by large groupings, and the stronger our grouping, the better the benefits.

Touching on the ties of friendship between President Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush and their impact on the Middle East issue, Dr al-Baz said he does not expect relations between Egypt and the United States to change in the near future. He added that the new U.S. Administration will be generally similar to that of former U.S. President Reagan.

However, he said, the Bush administration has made significant improvements in favor of the Middle East issue. He expressed the belief that the strong friendly ties which have linked Presidents Bush and Mubarak will enhance their ability to understand each other, particularly because President Bush has been involved in the political game for a long time.

Dr al-Baz described the Palestinian uprising as a central source of power for the Palestinians. He said that thanks to the uprising and increasing world support, the Palestinians were able to present the concept of coexistence with Israel.

On Israel's commitment to implementing the international arbitration ruling on Tabah, Dr al-Baz said Israel has no choice. He commended the way in which the Tabah issue was handled, adding that the excellent rational and nationalist approach reflected the decision-making process under President Mubarak's leadership. In this regard, he noted that the president gave his instructions that the issue be handled by a wide range of Egyptian experts, including opposition members, and that Egypt's sovereignty should not be touched at all. hence, Egypt was able to handle the issue in its favor, and the tribunal's ruling was decisive.

Dr al-Baz was asked about Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and the possibility of its using these weapons in the Middle East. He said this matter must not frighten us, adding that this type of weapon should be eliminated from the region to make the Middle East a nuclear-free region.

He said that when Israel started to produce nuclear arms, they were not meant to be used but rather were intended as a deterrent and tool for intimidation. He said that the Arab region, as well as Israel, must be nuclear-free. We must focus on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, because this must be our course over the next 10 years, he said.

On the recent detente between the two superpowers, Dr al-Baz said it was prompted by their fear of general destruction. He then said that halting the arms race can be attributed to the fact that the United States has a debt amounting to $213 billion [as received] and that it is suffering from an enormous deficit in its trade balance.

As for the Soviet Union, he added, it found that a considerable portion of its national income is being wasted on armaments and space industries to narrow the gap between it and the Western world. Hence, the Soviet Union began to reduce its military expenditure and allocate funds for civilian purposes. This was the major motive behind detente between the two superpowers, he concluded.

Syrian Premier Cited on Relations With Egypt

NC0902121989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Feb (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has reiterated that his country looks forward to the day when the causes of the estrangement between Syria and Egypt are eliminated.

In an interview he granted to the Yemeni official paper AL-THAWRAH during his recent visit to Sanaa, the Syrian prime minister said he knows that efforts are under way to convene an Arab summit with Egypt's participation. Commenting on these efforts, he said: Syria considers each step leading to Arab solidarity and consolidating its effectiveness as a step which would be to the advantage and benefit of joint Arab action.

Responding to a question about attempts to achieve an accord between Syria and Iraq, Al-Zu'bi said: There is nothing new regarding the present status in the relations between Syria and Iraq. Asked about the Lebanese problem and how to solve it, he said that his country has assumed many burdens in Lebanon and that a radical solution to the Lebanese crisis calls for a comprehensive awareness by all parties in order to achieve national reconciliation on a firm basis.

The Syrian prime minister added: The Arab good offices committee's contribution to the tackling of the Lebanese problem is tantamount to an effort to clarify the real nature of the Lebanese crisis.

Minister: No 'Concrete' Progress in Tabah Talks

NC0902215689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2002 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—At the Sonesta Hotel in Cairo today the Egyptian and Israeli negotiators held two sessions of talks on compensation for Tabah tourist facilities.

Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fu'ad Sultan, who is heading the Egyptian team, stated that no concrete progress has been made on the compensation issue for the tourist facilities in Tabah. He said: We still have differences over the size of this compensation.

The tourism minister added that the Israeli side asked for a revision of the proposed compensation. He said the Egyptian stand has become clear, the matter requires patience, and we have that patience.

He also noted the possibility of resorting to a study by neutral experts of the financial analysis presented by both sides.

Regarding the management of the Sonesta Hotel in Tabah, the head of the Egyptian delegation said that the Egyptian proposals on hotel management are acceptable to the Israeli side. He pointed out that a specialized company or an international hotel company will be entrusted with the task.

Minister Fu'ad Sultan added that talks on this topic are being held between the Ministry of Tourism, the new owner, and the former owner because the site on which tourist facilities are built has reverted to the ministry. He explained that the Egyptian and Israeli Governments are taking part in the negotiations as observers.

Minister Sultan said that the Israeli delegation will return to Cairo on Sunday [12 February] morning, and talks will resume on Monday.

Israelis Discussing Tabah Compensation Leave

NC0902230089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—An Israeli delegation of the proprietors of the Tabah tourist facilities left Cairo tonight following a 2-day visit during which they held talks with officials at the Egyptian Tourism Ministry concerning paying compensation for the Tabah facilities. Shim'on Shamir, Israeli ambassador to Cairo, left on the same plane.

The Israeli delegation is due back in Cairo next Sunday in order to resume its talks with the officials of the Egyptian Tourism Ministry.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Holds News Conference

NC0902150789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Feb 89

[News conference by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in Cairo on 9 Feb from the "World on the Air" program—recorded]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf held a news conference at noon today in which he saluted the Egyptian people, President Mubarak, and the Egyptian Government for their sincere efforts in support of the Palestinian issue.

Khalaf said his meetings with the Egyptian officials, the foremost being President Husni Mubarak, had been cordial and fruitful. Salah Khalaf added:

[Begin recording] I would like to salute our people in Egypt, whose sacrifices and stands in support of the Palestinian cause throughout history are not forgotten by our Palestinian people. I also salute President Husni Mubarak and the senior officials we met yesterday and today. From them we sensed a warm Egyptian and Arab position toward all the issues we raised during these meetings.

I believe our views were identical regarding political activity and what we must do in the future in order not to waste the Palestinian initiative launched by the PNC. Should this intiative be wasted, an important opportunity for peace will be missed. For our part, we have offered all that we can give, and our people in the occupied territories are living a process of uprising and are ready to sacrifice more and more until they attain their natural right to have their own state and to live in peace, like any other people in the world.

If there is a true desire and intention to establish peace, I believe that the PLO has provided the groundwork for this peace. This groundwork allows the convening of an international conference during which we could discuss all topics and details, without having had any preconditions for holding such talks within the international conference framework.

This is what we talked about with the brother officials here, the foremost being President Mubarak. Let me say that the response to all the topics we raised was great. This is what is expected of the Egypt we know, the Egypt which is the basis for any Arab activity and for the Palestinian issue. [end recording]

More on News Conference

NC0902161589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has praised Egypt's sincere Arab stand on the Palestinian issue throughout its history. He expressed his gratitude for his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, saying that they discussed significant developments on the Arab and Palestinian stage, upon which he said Egypt is a major actor.

At a news conference held this afternoon, Abu Iyad said that the Palestinian people are living the uprising now that they have offered all they can for a just and lasting peace.

He emphasized that the Palestinians are not ready to stop the uprising until they regain their legitimate national rights to establish an independent state. He said that the uprising will not be stopped by false initiatives.

Touching on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Salah Khalaf expressed the hope that it will be expanded and raised to a higher level to discuss basic issues which have a bearing on the international conference. He also stressed that the United States should become an unbiased partner in negotiations.

Abu Iyad commended Europe's stand and said that Britain's stand, which has improved recently, represents a new development.

Khalaf denied that any party has directly approached the PLO to stop the uprising. He said that the PLO rejects terrorism represented in operations outside the occupied Arab territories, and added that Israel has been feeling isolated since the recent Algiers summit.

Commenting on the false initiatives which propose holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Abu Iyad said he welcomed such a procedure for Palestinians inside and outside the territories provided that it forms part of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peaceful solution. An unjust solution can never last, he said.

On Arab action in the coming stage, Abu Iyad remarked that intensified contacts are under way for holding an Arab summit in Riyadh with Egypt's participation, since no Arab action can succeed without Egypt. He said that this summit is designed to take a unified Arab stand respected by friends and foes alike.

He disclosed that there is movement to form an Arab committee at the next summit, comprising Egypt, Syria, and, after its problems are solved, Lebanon. He added that the PLO can coordinate matters in order to arrive at a clear, unified, and specific stand on discussions during the international peace conference.

In response to a question on the provisional government and why it has not yet been formed, Abu Iyad said we are waiting for a favorable time when international conditions have become clear.

Touching on relations with Syria, Abu Iyad asserted that for a long time the PLO has been making proposals to rectify relations with the brothers in Syria. However, he noted, it seems as though the Syrian decision to rectify these relations has not ripened yet. He pointed out that

so far there has been no indication or invitation to negotiate with the Syrians on rectifying relations. We want and we call for such a dialogue, but without preconditions, he emphasized.

On peace opportunities this year, Abu Iyad said that if we do not take the first step on the road leading to a solution this year, things will get tremendously complicated. He noted that there is an opportunity for a real peace and that the ball is presently in Israel's court. Only time will tell who is destroying peace, he remarked. He then said that real peace begins when we take steps toward solving the basic issue, the Palestinian problem, on a just and lasting basis. He added that all other details can be discussed at the international conference, with guarantees from the major states. He stressed that the Palestinians demand Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, first and foremost. After that we can all go to the international conference, he said.

Abu Iyad praised the Soviet role in the Palestinian issue, expressing the hope that the U.S. role will be as significant, effective, and basic as the Soviet one.

Commenting on the lukewarm relations between the PLO and Romania, he said we respect President Ceausescu who had contributed to shaping Palestinian relations with the socialist countries, certain European countries, and even the United States. He added that Ceausescu had also played a role with the Israelis in more than one respect. Hence, the cloud which has marred PLO-Romanian relations will not have any repercussions.

Abu Iyad expressed dissatisfaction with Arab support for the uprising in the occupied territories, demanding that this support be raised to even 10 percent of the political and financial Arab support to the Afghan Mujahidin.

Turkish Foreign Minister Yilmaz Continues Visit

Meets With Abu Ghazalah

NC0902122689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz at his office this morning. Aspects of cooperation in the military field were discussed during the meeting. The Turkish ambassador in Cairo and the Turkish military attache attended the meeting.

Joint Communique Issued

NC0902135089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—A joint Egyptian-Turkish communique was issued today, signed by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz. The communique notes that both countries' opinions were identical on all regional and international issues.

The two countries voiced strong support for the PNC resolutions and the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state. They expressed the hope that Israel would reciprocate this constructive Palestinian position by withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories.

The two countries expressed support for the U.S. decision to begin a dialogue with the PLO and for the recent initiatives by the EC and other nations to stimulate the peace process in the Middle East.

Egypt and Turkey also expressed support for efforts aimed at preserving the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon. The two countries voiced the hope that all unresolved issues in Lebanon will be solved through national reconciliation. The two countries praised Arab mediation efforts in this respect.

Turkey said it was satisfied with the recent developments in Egyptian-Arab relations, developments which underline the pivotal role of Egypt in bringing about peace and stability in the Middle East.

Egypt and Turkey expressed satisfaction over the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf and expressed the hope that Iraq and Iran would activate their talks in order to reach a peaceful settlement and an honorable and just peace in the Gulf.

Egypt and Turkey welcomed the withdrawl of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which took place in accordance with the agreement signed in this respect. The two countries stressed the right of the Afghan people to self-determination.

Egypt and Turkey also declared their denunciation of the racist policies of the ruling regime in South Africa and of apartheid. They welcomed the recent agreement concerning the independence of Namibia, describing this agreement as a positive step toward peace and stability in southern Africa and in the world.

Egypt and Turkey expressed their belief that unresolved issues between Turkey and Greece should be settled through continued negotiations and the demonstration of good faith.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid today held a final session of talks with Mesut Yilmaz. The two officials reviewed bilateral relations and recommended increasing high-level communications between the two countries in order to step up cooperation in the various fields. The two officials also praised the improvement in bilateral relations and reiterated both countries' desire to promote cooperation in the various fields.

A maritime agreement was signed by Dr 'Abd al-Majid and Turkish Foreign Minister Yilmaz on navigation facilities. Having signed the agreement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid made a speech in which he said that the Egyptian-Turkish joint committee had discussed the political and economic issues which concern both countries. He added that it has been agreed that Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will visit Turkey next June in response to the visit to Cairo by the Turkish Prime Minister.

For his part, the Turkish foreign minister made a speech in which he declared that views were identical on both local and world issues, and that talks between the two countries demonstrated that they have no differences on any of the topics. He stressed that the two countries must intensify efforts to promote fruitful bilateral cooperation. He went on to say that both have a desire to bolster bilateral relations and to raise cooperation between them to the desired level. He added that remarkable progress has been achieved in promoting relations.

Yilmaz said he hoped to hold talks with Dr 'Abd al-Majid during Dr 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Turkey. He concluded by saying that close cooperation between the two countries serves their common interests, as well as international interests, in order to achieve world peace and stability.

The Turkish foreign minister is expected to leave Cairo for home tomorrow, Friday, following a 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC1002072889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz left Cairo this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Turkish Foreign Minister headed his country's delegation to the first meeting of the Higher Egyptian-Turkish Committee, while Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led Egypt's delegation to the meeting. The two foreign ministers also signed a joint communique yesterday at the conclusion of the bilateral talks.

Yilmaz was seen off on departure by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi and by Ambassador Sami Thabit, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Egyptair Planes Delayed After Bomb Hoax

NC1002085689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—The departure of two Egyptair planes bound for Khartoum and Nairobi, respectively, was delayed for 2 hours because of a false claim that explosives had been planted on the planes.

The authorities at Cairo International Airport have received a telephone call from an unidentified person who said that explosives were aboard the two planes. Disposal teams searched the planes but found no explosives. The two planes departed 2 hours late following the hoax.

Libya

UN Envoy: 'Encouraging Signs' on U.S. Ties

PM0902121389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 89 p3

[Report on interview with UN Representative Dr 'Ali al-Turayki by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Text] Libyan UN representative Dr 'Ali al-Turayki has said he "does not expect a quick major or fundamental change in U.S. policy toward Libya during President George Bush's era." But he went on to say "there are encouraging signs with regard to relations."

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Turayki associated these signs with the U.S. decision to cancel military exercises off the Libyan coast, withdraw U.S. aircraft carriers from there, and allow U.S. oil companies to return to operate in Libya, considering all these "good signs."

Al-Turayki said that new U.S. Secretary of State James Baker adopted a clear position against imposing economic sanctions against Libya or boycotting it.

On Libya's position toward these developments, Al-Turayki said that his country has expressed "willingness to restore equal and balanced relations with the United States, and we are waiting for Washington to cease its hostile policy against us."

Regarding the continuation of the U.S. media and political campaign against Libya, Dr 'Ali al-Turayki said he believes that "the campaign against us and the Arab states is a Zionist policy seeking to create a state of tension in the region to the benefit of the Zionist circles influencing U.S. decisionmaking."

He also said: "The campaign against Libya, which the Arab nation has confronted well, is expanding to include other Arab states. We see it as a campaign directed at the Arab nation as a whole with the aim of hitting inter-Arab cooperation first and then Arab-European cooperation and denying the Arab nation modern technology. This is at a time when we see no one talking about the danger of Israel's possession of chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons. We actually see that the focus is on Libya and the Arab states because of their position on the Palestinian cause."

Al-Turayki considered "a unified Arab stand to be the guarantee for the success of confrontation against these schemes. The unanimity that emerged at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, in addition to the Arab efforts being

made to resolve the Lebanese problem, is perhaps an encouraging thing within the framework of Arab common action in the face of the threats facing the Arab nation."

Al-Turayki assessed the Arab position as "good, positive, and solidary, not only at the United Nations, but in all capitals."

He said: "I believe that the Reagan era in the world has ended. That era was characterized by arrogance and ignorance in the handling of serious issues. The Americans have often said that Reagan was not familiar enough with political issues. He also looked at the Arabs and Libya as a question of personal hostility rather than a political question."

Furthermore, Al-Turayki described former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' role as "influential but in a negative way. Shultz was perhaps the worst U.S. secretary of state with regard to Arab issues. He was more loyal to Zionism than the Zionists themselves, as was clearly pointed out by the Israelis and American Jews. And that was attributable to the failure of the 17 May agreement in Lebanon, which led to a psychological state affecting U.S. relations with the Arab states and its position on Arab issues."

Al-Turayki called on the new U.S. Administration to "be aware of the united Arab stand phenomenon and deal with it realistically. The time of dividing and fragmenting the Arab nation to deal with it on an individual basis has gone forever. U.S. political and economic interests lie in dealing with the Arab nation rather than being hostile to it. And that can be achieved within the framework of a neutral, positive position on Arab issues." Al-Turayki moved on to talk about rapid developments in the Arab Maghreb, saying the situation there "is making good strides toward integration and unity. The summit has almost been decided. And the specialized committees are meeting constantly. We believe that many positive steps have been taken before the achievement of integration. They are positive and important steps. They include the abolition of all barriers between Libya and Tunisia and between Libya and Algeria. This is in addition to the abolition of visas between Libya and Morocco, and maintaining major cooperation among all the Maghreb state."

Al-Turayki considered King Hassan II's meeting with Polisario representatives "an encouraging meeting which Libya has welcomed, because it is a positive meeting contributing to achieving Maghreb unity—an important stage in common Arab action toward Arab unity."

Finally, Al-Turayki said that "because the EEC will integrate completely in a few years, the Maghreb states too must realize their integration and common market. This is because Moroccan or Algerian manpower will face the problem of competing with European manpower when EC integration is achieved."

Al-Turayki urged "working at the Maghreb level to face that situation and other situations which prompt the Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation as a whole to unite and face the common destiny."

Morocco

Hassan 'Statement' on Recognition of Israel Denied

LD0902144889 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Rabat, Feb 9 (MAP)—The Egyptian daily "AL-AHALI", mouthpiece of the Unionist Rally Party—left wing opposition—published Wednesday, quoting an Israeli daily, statement allegedly made by King Hassan II on the recognition of Israel by the Arab states and on an initiative of peace by the sovereign concerning the Middle East conflict.

Authorized Moroccan sources categorically deny such allegations, which are aimed at creating a mistrust climate among the Arab opinion and consequently at hindering any unitary Arab action on the eve of the Maghreban summit and the Arab summit.

The same sources expressed amazement that an Arab press organ quote such affirmations from Zionist sources which aim at creating dissension and discord in the Arab world.

Algeria's Filali on Hassan-Bendjedid Dialogue

LD0902125689 Algiers APS in English 1127 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Fes, 9/2/89 (APS)—"President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II decided from now on to consider the future with optimism" Abdellatif Filali, foreign affairs and cooperation minister said in a statement to APS. The head of the Moroccan diplomacy who considered that "President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Morocco was crowned with success" said that conditions exist to go ahead together in the same way." [quotation marks as received]

"The visit to Morocco of President Bendjedid was an excellent initiative. It enabled the two heads of state to strengthen the bilateral relations, to note the mistakes and to consider with confidence and serenity, the future of the Algero-Moroccan cooperation."

"We decided to deepen this cooperation on the basis of the great joint commission which will be even chaired alternatively by the two heads of state in Algiers and in Rabat."

Citing the holding of the second Maghreban summit in Marrakech, the head of the Moroccan diplomacy noted that in this frame [words indistinct] as it will be question of the joint future between Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

Filali said that the Great Arab Maghreb is "a whole which presents all the conditions. We are convinced of that. And this is the conclusion we reached during the visit of President Chadli Bendjedid because this Maghreban whole is able to take up challenges."

Sudan

Three Main Parties To Meet on National Problems

EA0902140289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Feb (SUNA)—Leaders of the three major parties in the country, the Ummah, the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], and the National Islamic Front [NIF] will meet shortly to discuss the issues of peace and economic crisis in order to unify the internal front for solving the main problems facing the country, the daily AL-AYAM of [words indistinct].

The paper quoted the secretary-general of the opposition DUP, Sharif Ahmad Zayn al-'Abidin 'Umar al-Hindi, as saying that the DUP will continue negotiations with the Ummah Party and the NIF about the [words indistinct] an agreement to solve the main [words indistinct].

Reports Denied on State Council Resignations

EA0902140389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic has denied a report published by the AL-SUDANI newspaper, issue No 801, dated 7 February 1989, that the chairman and members of the State Council have expressed their willingness to tender their resignations.

In a statement issued to this effect, the Secretariat asserted that this report was baseless and completely inaccurate and that it offended the dignity of the democratic experiment and its constitutional institutions. The report, it said, showed a lack of accuracy in investigation and in truth.

Officials Interviewed on Constitutional Conference

Taj al-Din: 'House in Order'

PM1002103589 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 6 Feb 89 pp 17-19

[Interview with State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din by Abu Bakr al-Siddiq al-Sharif; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sharif] A question that concerns everyone: Is the Sudanese house in order for the constitutional conference and the peace stage?

[Taj al-Din] Although the answer to this question requires long- and short-term views, I am happy to say: Yes, our house is now in order and our political arena—with all its forces and influential elements—is completely ready. I even go beyond this to say that we have completed the formation of the national committee through which we were anxious to represent all influential elements from parliament and the national government as well as influential political elements outside the Constituent Assembly.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Islamic Socialist Party (Mahmud Muhammad Taha Group), and the uprising forces have been given the chance to represent themselves alongside the Ummah Party, the Nationalist [as published] Unionist Party, the Islamic Front, the Sudanese Communist Party, and the Arab Nationalist Party. So the 12 parties represented in parliament have observed the nationalist nature of that conference and given everyone the opportunity to shoulder any responsibilities resulting from it.

[Al-Sharif] What about the organization of the conference's proceedings and the issues to be dealt with?

[Taj al-Din] At that level, we have formed a technical committee comprising technocrats and military elements. Its task is to arrange a "mechanism" for a cease-fire in preparation for entering a comprehensive peace on the basis of internationally known rules.

I would point out here that the defense and foreign ministers were supposed to pay a working visit to Ethiopia to complete the other side's, namely the SPLM, procedures concerning the committee's formation. That has been precluded by the Ethiopian prime minister's official visit to this country. Besides, a large number of the movement's leaders are outside Ethiopia. So they informed us of their desire for the referred to delegation to postpone its visit until after the Ethiopian prime minister concludes his official visit.

[Al-Sharif] Does this mean that the Ethiopian prime minister's visit has something to do with the constitutional conference to be held?

[Taj al-Din] All I can say in this regard is that the visit's objective is to impart impetus to bilateral relations in the light of international and regional detente in the region.

[Al-Sharif] By referring to the constitutional conference, don't you expect the other side to demand autonomy?

[Taj al-Din] In practice, none of the southern citizens believe this possible. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] The unity agreement which Sudan signed with Libya stirred up a great deal of controversy. What stage has that agreement reached and how would you assess the controversy over it?

[Taj al-Din] Under its present democratic system and under the national accord government, Sudan bases all its actions on the charter under which the government

was formed—because it reflects democratic rule—and on Sudan's geographical situation, as it is surrounded by nine Arab as well as English-speaking and French-speaking states. Neighborly relations maintained by Sudan are stipulated in the charter.

Such relations are completely opposite to the bloc policy pursued by the former regime, in the sense that we adhere to nonalignment, but at the same time seek to establish special relations with neighbors. On that basis we signed the brotherhood agreement with Egypt. On that basis also, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided us with aid—a great help when the flood disaster befell us.

So Libya was the neighboring Arab country that remained. On the same basis we maintained dialogue with Libya on ways to develop our relations in order to realize the two countries' aspirations. We understand that the Libyan brothers have their own views about their Arab and regional relations. Regarding their relations, they maintain cooperation in specific fields. Their decision is to use regional relations to serve the strategic objective represented by a comprehensive Arab unity.

We in Sudan believe in Arab unity as multiphased strategy. Nevertheless, our talks with Libya resulted in the signing of agreements and protocols in various fields of cooperation, but within the framework of bilateral relations and without ignoring a study of Arab unity in its comprehensive concept. [passage omitted]

Initiative 'Welcomed'

PM1002103989 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 6 Feb 89 pp19-20

[Interview with Angelo Beda, chairman of the Council for the South, by Abu Bakr al-Siddiq al-Sharif; place, date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] As a southern leader, how do you assess the constitutional conference to be held? Do you think it will be able to secure a final solution to the conflict?

[Beda] In fact, the Sudanese people as a whole have never welcomed any initiative the way they have welcomed the initiative to hold the constitutional conference between the executive government and the SPLM. This is because it will be tantamount to a parliament comprising all influential elements in order to find a solution acceptable to all parties with regard to the country's most complex problem.

[Al-Sharif] How do you view the situation regarding the Arab, Islamic orientations deep-seated in northeners and the African, Black, Christian orientations deep-rooted in southerners?

[Beda] All I fear is that the constitutional conference debates will deviate and discuss such an issue, which would stir up severe disputes. I also fear the eruption of similar disputes over conditions set by the movement, thus making the conference move in circles.

[Al-Sharif] Will some African states try to destroy the conference if it adopts a line consistent with the North's Arab, Islamic orientations?

[Beda] In my opinion, the African countries thinking of playing such a role must keep in mind the conflict and the reality experienced by the people in the South, scores and hundreds of whom are dying every day. Human values will prompt them to assist in convening the conference and making it a success.

[Al-Sharif] What is the average southerner's attitude toward the conference?

[Beda] Like the rest of the Sudanese people, the southerner encourages and supports the initiative. Committees have been formed to draw up a working paper to present to the conference in order to open the road to peace and join efforts to find solutions to united Sudan's major problems, political or economic, and also to draw up a practical program to avoid problems arising from religious beliefs and discrimination between citizens. This is in addition to serious proposals about representation in legislative and executive authority.

[Al-Sharif] Have these proposals been accepted by all the southern parties?

[Beda] All parties carrying weight in the south have agreed to these proposals. Some opposition parties merely voiced reservations about some problems which they believe must be solved before the conference is convened. We have persuaded them, however, to raise such problems at the constitutional conference in order to secure serious, comprehensive solutions. This is because what is important now is a cease-fire and fighting the famine now killing thousands of citizens in the south.

[Al-Sharif] The Islamic Front has voiced reservations about John Garang's condition regarding the freezing of the September laws concerning the Islamic Shari'ah. What is your interpretation of these reservations?

[Beda] They voiced some kind of reservations but these are now left behind. The front is sensitive about matters relating to religion, but we have convinced them that religion is for God and the homeland is for all. Instead of stirring up sensitivities, thus keeping the war raging, let us turn to the war of democratic dialogue and present ideas to the constitutional conference and then accept its results.

[Al-Sharif] Do you believe that the constitutional conference will be held?

[Beda] Certainly, because government and popular efforts are devoted to realizing it.

[Al-Sharif] One finds by reviewing both the distant and recent past that John Garang was bent on rejecting all peace initiatives. So why, in your opinion, is he accepting them now?

[Beda] I believe John Garang's intransigence against the peace call was based on erroneous calculations—something of which I as chairman of the Council for the South was aware. I confronted that through African and international forums by releasing lists of victims of the ugly war in which he engaged. Fortunately, the world approach toward peace has effectively contributed to the world's understanding of that ugly war, thus exerting some pressure on Garang to adopt his recent position.

[Al-Sharif] Do you believe he is serious about entering the peace stage?

[Beda] I am completely convinced that the objective reality is not in favor of kindling conflicts in any region in the world. I am confident that John Garang and his followers well understand this fact. Besides, their belonging to Sudan, which is now under a special democracy, must prompt everyone to want to rescue the homeland from the state of poverty and loss it is now experiencing.

In addition to all these matters, the families and tribes of those who die in the south have forced them to accept the peace initiative which can change Sudan's face for the sake of its citizens, neighbors, and those who wish it progress and prosperity.

SPLA Claims Capture of Intelligence Officer

EA0902201189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Two units of Shakkush Task Force Headquarters under the operational command of Lieutenant James Lawrence Lado and the direct command of Alternate Commander Kong Nyon and the overall command of Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA political-military high command and zonal commander for central and western Equatoria, captured an enemy military intelligence personnel, whose name is Private Paul Taban Arua. His original home is Tirangore, of Chief Jima Akang, Torit District.

He revealed that he was trained in Khartoum as a combat intelligent [as received] and then transferred to Al-Shajarah Armored Corps, where he was then sent to the south. He was captured by SPLA's patrolling unit, 4 miles from the enemy garrison of Rejaf East.

Pvt Paul Taban also revealed that he was among other eight combat intelligence soldiers who were sent from Juba on 31st December 1988 by their intelligence officers, Lieutenant 'Abd al-Rahman and Charles Wani Akur, all of Military Intelligence Headquarters, to gather information and locate SPLA positions around Juba. He further revealed that a similar team was sent through Rejaf West. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Meets With 'Arafat, PLO Delegation

LD1002012489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] At the Republic Palace in Carthage yesterday evening, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received members of the PLO Executive Committee, led by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, committee chairman. On this occasion, the head of state held talks with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Before leaving the palace, Mr Yasir 'Arafat made a statement, at the beginning of which he expressed his pleasure with the blessed fraternal meeting with his excellency the president, which the members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian leadership enjoyed. He added that this meeting was an opportunity to discuss a number of important issues concerning the development of the Palestinian cause inside the occupied territories and the dangerous escalation carried out by Israel against the Palestinian people, including children and women, who confront it with firmness and conviction.

He pointed out that he affirmed to his excellency the president that the uprising will continue until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat mentioned that the discussion covered Arab and Palestinian actions, particularly on the international front, among which is the Arab Committee, which was set up at the Arab League level to make contacts with United Nations Security Council permanent member states, the United Nations, and the EEC. [passage omitted]

Mbarek Signs Development Accord With Algeria

LD0902115189 Algiers APS in English 1037 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, 9 Feb (APS)—An accord relating to the development of the basin of the Mallaq Wadi was signed on Wednesday [8 February] between Algeria and Tunisia in the small locality of Sekiet Sidi Youcef.

The accord which is centered on the development of certain bordering countries was signed from the Algerian side by Ahmed Benfreha, hydraulic and forestries minister and Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, Tunisian agriculture minister as well as by Idris el Jaziri, president of the International Fund for the Agriculture Development (IFAD).

Ben Ali Increases Number of Hajj Pilgrims

LD0902203989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] At the government palace in Carthage this morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met with Kacem Bousnina, secretary of state in the premier's office in charge of religious affairs. He submitted to the head of state a review concerning religious activity. On this occasion, the head of state recommended beginning preparations for restructuring the [religious affairs] state secretariat and its institutions. [passage omitted]

In preparing for the pilgrimage season, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali decided to raise the number of pilgrims this year by 500 to bring the total to 7,000. The president of the republic also decided to increase the pilgrimage grant by 100 dinars, in addition to the tourist grant to which holders of ordinary and special passports are entitled. He recommended that all measures be taken to make arrangements for making the pilgrimage this season well managed, enabling Tunisian pilgrims to perform their pilgrimage rites in the best possible conditions.

Kuwait

Lebanese Religious Leaders Invited for Talks

LD0702201789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1846 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, Feb 7 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria Ahmad al-Ja-sim returned to Damascus Tuesday evening after a short visit to Kuwait during which acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah handed him invitations to a number of Lebanese spiritual leaders to visit Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah is the chairman of an Arab-League ministerial committee on Lebanon.

The Kuwaiti envoy told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY he will be handing the invitations as of Thursday and elaborated that on Thursday he will deliver an invitation to the Roman Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Hazim and the Roman Catholic Patriarch Maximus V Hakim.

Al-Jasim added that he will visit Beirut within a few days to hand over invitations to Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, Lebanon's Grand Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid, Supreme Shi'ite Council Vice-Chairman Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and head of the Druze sect Muhammad Abu Shakra.

Shaykh Sabah has said that Kuwait will host late this month the second of talks with Lebanese leaders in the framework of the Arab-League committee's efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis.

The committee's first round of talks was held earlier this month in Tunis.

Minister on Economic Cooperation With Iraq

LD0902113689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Sabah said in a published statement here Thursday [9 February] the future of economic cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq is the focus of talks during the current Baghdad visit of H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

The minister told the Arabic language daily "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT" that among the issues at hand is pumping water from Shatt al-'Arab to Kuwait for drinking and irrigating a greening campaign initiated by H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He said border demarcation had not been proposed on the agenda of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi talks, but pointed out that Kuwait is willing to discuss drawing the borderlines if Iraq showed a reciprocal desire.

Shaykh al-Jabir expressed wishes of success for an Arab League foreign ministers committee chaired by Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to negotiate an end to the Lebanese crisis.

Replying to a question, the minister recalled that "the toughest test which Kuwait had faced in the past years had been the subversive activities that targetted unity of the home front."

But the minister emphasized that "Kuwait's internal front is now far stronger than at the begining of the Gulf war."

Shaykh Jabir expressed belief that hard feelings created by the protracted Gulf war would soon disappear thanks to the promising peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

Saudi Arabia

Anti-Saudi 'Tendentious Campaigns' Assailed

JN0902205289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Feb 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Tendentious Campaigns"]

[Text] Some people would always like to cast doubt on any Saudi Arabian achievement, be it on the domestic level or on the Arab and Islamic levels. These campaigns continue with each new Saudi achievement with the aim of discrediting the kingdom's accomplishments.

And despite the fact that since its establishment by the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's policy has been clear to everybody in terms of its efforts to gather and unify the Arab and Islamic nations and its deep conviction that the unity of Arab and Islamic ranks will realize the Arab and Islamic hopes and aspirations, the campaigns of casting doubt and suspicions have been recurring, taking numerous forms and methods, each time changing color for fear of exposure.

The Kingdom's achievements speak for themselves despite these campaigns. Was the Kingdom not one of the first Arab states to sign the Arab League proclamation? Was the Kingdom not the maker of the Arab front that faced Israel following the 1967 setback and extended all forms of support to the confrontation states? Was the Kingdom not the creator of the Arab front of 1973, whose firm and serious stand compelled the Western states to understand the Arabs' viewpoint on the Arab cause? Was the Kingdom not the only mediator to succeed in liquidating the Jordanian-Syrian differences?

Was it not the mediator that buried the Moroccan-Algerian differences and went even further to create the common ground for an Arab Maghreb summit that was the first step toward unity? Was the Kingdom not the

state that upheld the idea of the GCC and painstakingly worked until the GCC was established and strengthened? Was it not the only state that upheld the proposal of returning Egypt to the Arab nation and which liquidated all the differences that existed between Egypt and all the other Arab states? Is the Kingdom not the state that is trying to break the ice in Egyptian-Syrian relations?

The Kingdom has always worked to establish a minimum level of Arab solidarity and create a common ground for understanding in order to ward off the spectre of division and fragmentation in the Arab world. How can we imagine that the Kingdom, which is exerting immense efforts to cement Arab divisions and establish Arab unity, could oppose an Arab grouping that would strengthen the Arab forces further? How can we imagine this when we are aware that the Kingdom worked to establish the GCC and is still working to establish an Arab Maghreb unity?

The Kingdom's leaders, who have a very clear political vision concerning the future, and who are aware that only strong blocs can survive in this world, are working to establish a strong regional Arab bloc so that the day will not come when we discover that we are a weakling among the strong.

Any levelheaded person in this world will realize that this Arab solidarity and this new spirit in the Arab world has not come from the void, and that the life imparted to it was given by a powerful motivator; namely, the Kingdom, which has taken upon itself the task to unify the Arab ranks.

And while endeavoring to unify Arab ranks, the Kingdom works in silence because it considers this work to be its duty and its mission which it should accomplish as best it can.

Yemen Arab Republic

Cooperation Protocol Signed With PFLP in Sanaa

JN0902202289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] A final round of talks was held at the headquarters of the Standing Committee today between the General People's Congress and the PFLP. The talks were co-chaired by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council, and secretary of the Standing Committee; and Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP. Later, they signed a protocol of bilateral cooperation between the General People's Congress and the PFLP.

The two sides stressed the importance of reinforcing and developing relations between them out of their belief in the necessity of cooperation among the vital forces in the Arab nation against imperialism and Zionism, achieving common struggle, serving the common Arab destiny, and supporting the causes of our Arab nation headed by the Palestine question. This stems from the ties of fraternity, the unity of land, language, and history as well as the struggle ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples and their revolutions.

The two sides also emphasized the importance of joint Arab action and the struggle role of the Arab masses in escalating and strengthening the popular revolution in the occupied Arab territories until the achievement of independence, sovereignty, and the establishment of the Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

They stressed that the Palestinian popular revolution has moved the Palestine question to a new stage of struggle and set a heroic example for the Arab masses. This calls for pan-Arab struggle responsibilities to cope with the developments of this stage.

The final session was attended on the General People's Congress side by Fadl 'Imadi, assistant secretary of the Standing Committee; Muhammad (al-Muhaqayn), rapporteur of the Administration and Services Committee; and Muhammad Shakir Hasan, rapporteur of the Cultural and Guidance Committee. It was attended on the PFLP side by Abu Khalil, officer in charge of foreign affairs; and Abu al-'Izz, PFLP representative in the southern part of the Yemeni homeland.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Perez de Cuellar

JN0902195589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] United Nations, 9 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. An INA correspondent in New York said that the meeting dealt with the progress in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, calling for a comprehensive settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict. Tariq 'Aziz will meet later today with Nepal's UN Representative Jaya Pratap Rana, president of the UN Security Council for this month.

The UN secretary general will meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati tomorrow.

Speaks to Journalists

JN0902213189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] New York, 9 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that he expects UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to propose a new diplomatic initiative to activate peace talks between Iraq and Iran and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Following the intensive talks he held this evening with the UN secretary general, Tariq 'Aziz told journalists in the United Nations that he will discuss the basic factors and principles to be included in the UN secretary general's initiative during the second meeting which he will hold with Perez de Cuellar later next week.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Iraq believed, and still believes, in achieving a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict which corresponds to the UN Charter and principles of international law. He said that the Iraqi position fully agrees with the position adopted by the UN secretary general in this regard.

Tariq 'Aziz said: The Iraqi Government expects any new peace proposals by the United Nations to take into consideration the vital issues of particular interest to Iraq. These issues include an affirmation of the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters in the Arabian Gulf and charging the United Nations with clearing the Shatt al-'Arab and making it safe and suitable for navigation without prejudicing the legal status of the river. Also, they must include the complete and comprehensive exchange of POW's between Iraq and Iran under UN supervision.

Denies Coup Attempt

JN1002122789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1212 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] New York, 10 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denied allegations of a coup attempt last month. This came in a press conference Tariq 'Aziz held yesterday following his meeting with UN Secreary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: These reports are baseless and we categorically deny them.

IRNA Cites Allegations of Coup Attempt

LD0902140389 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 9, IRNA—An assassination plot against Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn as part of an abortive attempt to overthrow his regime last December was much more serious than initially imagined.

A U.S. newspaper report underlines the seriousness of the attempted coup from the fact that Saddam Husayn's elite guards, who are supposed to protect him, were involved in it.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES, in a dispatch from Cairo, said details of the coup attempt remained sketchy, but noted that the traditional Army Day in Iraq, celebrated every year on January 6, was "cancelled this year without explanation."

Quoting unnamed diplomatic and intelligence sources in Egypt, the daily dated the overthrow attempt around the beginning of January, but Iraqi sources in London say it was planned for the end of December when Saddam was on a visit to Cairo.

The report in LOS ANGELES TIMES is considered to be the first to appear in the Western press. Last Sunday the London OBSERVER reported on a wave of mass executions of senior Army officers and government official in Iraq, but did not give details.

The American daily said as many as 200 Iraqis, including high-ranking Army officers, may have been executed following the coup attempt.

Due to rising discontent with the Saddam regime on account of worsening economic and social problems in Iraq, the paper was not surprised over the latest attempt on Saddam's life, as peace seemingly posed greater internal threat to his rule than external war.

A huge 70-billion dollar foreign debt incurred during the war with Iran and the problem with demobilization of one of the world's largest Army which poses a threat to this regime, are added dilemmas for Saddam, the paper concluded.

Ramadan Receives Letter From Sudanese Premier

JN0902144389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Sudanese Finance Minister 'Umar Nur al-Da'im conveyed

the message to the first deputy prime minister in a meeting today. The message deals with bilateral relations and Sudan's concern to develop and expand its relations with Iraq in all fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed Iraq's principled policy on establishing the best relations with the Arab brothers to strengthen the joint Arab action. Meanwhile, 'Umar Nur al-Da'im expressed the Sudanese Government's and people's pride in the pan-Arab stands of President Saddam Husayn on Sudan as well as his support for entrenching Sudan's national unity and stability.

Ramadan Discusses Arab Economic Grouping

JN1002111189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0957 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has asserted that the quadripartite economic cooperation among Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the YAR is a nucleus for comprehensive Arab economic cooperation.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the Arab Economists Federation, during which he received the Arab Economists Shield, a gift to President Saddam Husayn in appreciation of his leadership, which made both victory and peace, the first deputy prime minister said the doors of this cooperation are open to all Arab countries, whether or not they join regional federations or councils, to serve the Arab nation.

Ramadan added: The first step of quadripartite Arab cooperation will be taken in the economic field, so it will be a sound beginning for cooperation in the political, cultural, educational, and scientific fields. Taha Yasin Ramadan voiced confidence in the success of this experience because it followed detailed, precise studies and benefited from all previous Arab economic experience and other forms of experience.

During his meeting with the delegation on the occasion of holding a seminar on the ramificatiions of the Iraq-Iran war on the Arab region, the first deputy prime minister pointed to the importance of the economy. He said a prosperous, strong economy will contribute to the achievement of political stability and will lead to progress and prosperity.

He added: Iraq—which stood fast, which overcame all difficulties throughout the war, and which destroyed all the links of aggression joined by parties hostile to Arabs—will be in its new phase more prepared for construction, progress, and consolidation of Arab solidarity despite the Zionist and imperialist attempts seeking to undermine the positive results of Iraq's victory.

On behalf of the economists in the Arab homeland, Thamir Razuqi, secretary general of the Arab economists federation, greeted President Saddam Husayn's unique leadership, which achieved victory and safeguarded the Arab nation's dignity. He said: What the Iraqis have achieved is a victory for all Arabs and a bright page in the history of our Arab nation, which deserves to be taught in all Arab schools.

Further Reportage on Visit of Kuwaiti Premier

Extends Visit

LD0602215889 Kuwait KUNA in English 2004 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 6 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Sabah will extend his visit to the Iraqi capital till Saturday, in accordance with the wish of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, KUNA learned here Monday.

Receives RCC Vice Chariman

JN0802145889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim called on His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, at the latter's place of residence at noon today. They exchanged cordial views on fraternal bilateral ties and issues of common interest.

The talks were attended by Karim Hasan Rida, minister of agriculture and irrigation and head of the escort mission accompanying his highness the heir apparent; Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Faysal al-Khalid, minister of commerce and industry; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Visits Saddam Husayn

JN0802210689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the fraternal country of Kuwait, this evening.

Their discussion dealt with the close relations between the two fraternal countries, and ways to promote them.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; and by Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a dinner in honor of the Kuwaiti guest and his delegation. The dinner was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

Calls Talks 'Significant'

LD0902133589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1225 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 9 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has expressed his pleasure

at his meeting Wednesday [8 February] night with President Saddam Husayn describing it as significant.

Responding to a question by board chairman and director general of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, Barjis Hamud al-Barjis, on the encounter, Shaykh Sa'd added that the meeting was characterized with the spirit of genuine Arab fraternity embodied in the deep-rooted brotherly bonds between President Husayn and his highness the amir as well as the cordial ties which link the two sisterly peoples.

Shaykh Sa'd pointed out the positive attitude expressed by President Husayn towards bilateral issues and his keenness to push them forward towards their desired objectives.

He said they discussed bilateral and other issues of concern to the two countries and the Arab nation in this historical stage.

Receives Interior Minister

JN0902091489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received at his place of residence today Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab. Attending the meeting were Karim Hasan Rida, agriculture and irrigation minister and head of the mission of honor accompanying his highness the heir apparent; and members of the delegation accompanying his highness: Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Major General Yusuf al-Khurafi, Interior Ministry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With RCC's Ibrahim

JN0902121589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1106 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim visited His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the fraternal State of Kuwait, at his place of residence this morning. They reviewed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them to serve the interest of both fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

Attending the meeting were Karim Hasan Rida, agriculture and irrigation minister and head of the mission of honor accompanying His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; members of the delegation accompanying his highness; the Iraqi ambassador in Kuwait; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, have held a closed meeting.

Holds 'Closed' Talks

JN0902203589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—A closed meeting was held tonight between RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

'Izzat Ibrahim met with Shaykh Sa'd at his place of residence this evening.

Present at the meeting were Karim Hasan Rida, agriculture and irrigation minister and head of the mission of honor accompanying His Highness Shaykh Sa'd; the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; the members of the Kuwaiti delegation; and the Kuwaiti and Iraqi ambassadors in Baghdad and Kuwait, respectively.

Financial Cooperation Meetings With France Begin

JN0602201889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Meetings of the financial committee emanating from the joint Iraqi-French committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation began here this evening. Under discussion were ways to enhance and promote economic and trade cooperation as well as contributions by French companies to the implementation of industrial and construction projects in the phase of peace, development, and construction Iraq is witnessing following the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi side, led by the Transport and Communications Ministry under secretary, comprised representatives from the Ministries of Trade and Finance and the Central Bank. The French side, led by Philip Raymond, deputy chief of the Economic and Foreign Relations Department at the Ministry of Economy, comprised representatives from the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Foreign Affairs, Equipment and Housing, and the French bank for foreign trade.

Talks Address 'Boosting Trade'

JN0702130089 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 7, INA—The financial committee branching from the Iraqi-French Joint Committee for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation started meetings here last night.

During the meeting, the committee discussed means of boosting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and contribution of French companies to carrying out industrial and construction projects in Iraq during the post war stage.

The Iraqi side was headed by the undersecretary of transport and communications while the French side was led by Philip Raymond, vice-chairman of the external economic relations and the Ministry of Economy.

Shomron: U.S. Report Based on 'Inaccurate Data'
TA0902165189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] IDF Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that the U.S. State Department report on the territories is one-sided. Speaking to our Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Lieutenant General Shomron said that the report is based on inaccurate data collected from Palestinians.

The chief of staff said that the report published by the administration did not come up in his discussions with Pentagon representatives, the State Department, or the White House. In the course of conversations with Pentagon officials, the chief of staff sensed that they feel a great understanding and friendship for Israel.

Sharon Blames Report for Recent Violence
TA1002130389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 p 2

["Exclusive" report from Britain by Dalya Sharon]

[Excerpt] London—Minister Ari'el Sharon is in London to attend meetings on EEC-related matters. In a news conference he held yesterday, he criticized the U.S. State Department's report on Israel's conduct toward the inhabitants of the territories. He said it is misleading, it emphasizes and exaggerates one-sided facts, and it does not mention the conditions that created the need for an Israeli reaction.

Sharon argued that the outbreak of violence in the territories in the last 24 hours was a direct consequence of the report. He accused Europe of having a one-sided and naive attitude toward 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

U.S. Report Termed 'Worthy of Appreciation'
TA0902171189 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Feb 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The U.S. Report"]

[Text] The report released by the U.S. State Department two days ago, containing for the first time severe criticism of Israeli measures in the occupied territories, is very significant in its timing and tone. This significance derives from the climate of international consensus for peace, as well as the ongoing condemnation of Israeli measures in the occupied territories over the last 14 months. These measures are expected to lead to an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council during the next few days to discuss ways of inducing the Israeli authorities to halt their practices.

There is no doubt that the clear U.S. condemnation of Israeli measures in the occupied territories included in the report represents a new U.S. tone that American diplomacy always lacked in its nonobjective treatment of the Arab-Israeli conflict. These U.S. criticisms provide an indication of the outline of the next steps by the new U.S. Administration, which so far has not given its final word on proposed plans for a settlement. We hope that the new administration will help in changing the one-dimensional perspective that dominated previous U.S. administrations in their dealings with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Just as the U.S. report was harsh and explicit, so was the Israeli reaction. A number of Israeli officials have expressed their anger at the report, accusing the U.S. Administration of being biased toward the Palestinians. At the same time, Refa'el Eytan, who is known for his extremist views, has acknowledged that there have been many cases of firing without justification at Palestinian residents.

While we see this U.S. report as a step worthy of appreciation on the road to removing the U.S. perspective from the long years of domination by the narrow Israeli perspective, we believe that the real test of this U.S. approach will be the stance that the U.S. Administration adopts at the expected UN Security Council meeting. It is then that one will be sure whether the U.S. Administration is serious or not in freeing its policy from the cycle of blind bias toward its minor ally. It is this bias that has been the cause of everything that the U.S. Administration has sharply condemned today.

Report Will Create 'Opening'
TA0902193289 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 9 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Human Rights and the Political Rights of Our Palestinian People"]

[Text] The report on human rights in 1988, released by the U.S. State Department the day before yesterday and containing detailed pages on the immense increase of violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied land under the pretext of attempts by the Israeli army to crush the ongoing uprising, has created obvious alarm in Israel and its close friends within the U.S. Administration. This time the evidence comes from the United States, Israel's major and principal ally. This is frank and important testimony condemning and denouncing the suppressive military acts carried out by Israeli forces in accordance with the Israeli Government's official policy. In his testimony two days ago, Assistant Secretary of State Paul Hare said that the State Department is still receiving reports of cases of beatings of Palestinians, deportations from their land, and increased administrative detentions.

The significance of the U.S. report, which has achieved a human balance in terms of its public and clear stance on the side of our Palestinian people in the current stage, lies in the possibility of evolving this stance into a new political situation serving the interests of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. If Israel and its close friends have really been alarmed by the details and facts in this report released by the major ally of Israel itself, practical logic calls for the need to pressure the present Israeli Government to respond positively to peace initiatives based on the rights of all states and nations in the region and to move toward recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. These actions would lead to the convocation of the

international conference—the only framework for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and resolving the Palestinian problem with the participation of all parties and states concerned.

Our Palestinian problem, as the United States is naturally aware, is a political problem pertaining to the right of self-determination for all the Palestinian people as well as to the establishment of their independent state on their land, alongside the state of Israel, in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Partition Resolution 181 of 1947. The problem is not merely one of human rights.

Therefore, our legitimate human rights will not really be achieved except by a political solution based on justice and peace in the region.

We are very hopeful that this impartial human rights report by the U.S. Administration, led by President George Bush, will constitute a new opening for more dialogue with the PLO and further pressure on the Israeli Government in order to achieve a settlement that realizes the hopes and aspirations of all of us for peace, preservation of human rights, and stability.

Levin Hopes No Setback in Ties With USSR

TA1002061289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, Arye Levin, says he hopes the Soviet protest over Israel's conduct in the territories will not cause a setback to the process of normalization of relations between Jerusalem and Moscow. Reporter Mark Weiss asked him why the Soviets had voiced such criticism at a time of improving bilateral relations.

[Begin recording] [Levin] I don't think that it follows that if they are improving ties, the Soviets should be repressing their points of view regarding what's going on in the territories, in Judaea and Samaria. They have probably thought long and hard if they should take a position on this, and they have taken a position. That does not affect, as far as I can tell at this moment, the process of normalization of relations—a very long process, a very arduous process, I might say, but it has not affected it.

[Weiss] Will you be making any official response as the head of the Israeli consular delegation?

[Levin] No, because in the first place, the protest was not directed to me but to the ambassador of the Netherlands, who officially represents Israel in Moscow. We have not had yet the resumption of official diplomatic relations. That is why I do not represent Israel in the Soviet Union, but the Dutch ambassador.

[Weiss] And you don't think the Soviet Foreign Ministry criticism will slow down improving ties between Moscow and Jerusalem?

[Levin] I have reason to hope it will not. [end recording]

Levin noted the fact that a Jewish cultural center is to be opened in Moscow, and it is to be named after Michaelis, the great Yiddish-language theater director murdered by Stalin. Levin said articles have been appearing in prestigious Soviet literary journals reconsidering the Soviet attitude to Zionism.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 10 February adds that Levin "believes that the timing of the Soviet protest against Israeli activities in the territories is linked to the release" of the U.S. Administration's report on human rights.]

Protest Termed 'One-Sided'

TA1002102289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says that the USSR protest over the situation in the territories is one-sided and cannot be accepted with equanimity.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that an announcement released by the ministry spokesman says that the USSR knows full well Israel's aspiration for peace. We know that Moscow wants to help achieve a settlement. Nevertheless, the USSR's ability to participate in negotiations over a settlement is doubtful as long as it does not restore diplomatic relations with Israel.

Ceausescu Envoy Brings Message for Shamir

TA0902054089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] A personal envoy of the Romanian president arrived in Israel last night bearing a message from President Ceausescu to Prime Minister Shamir. The envoy, Ion Stoian, will also meet with Vice Prime Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Arens.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, who reported this news, adds that the Romanian president has been maintaining close personal ties with PLO leader 'Arafat and has been working toward a dialogue between Israel and the PLO.

Meets Shamir, Arens

TA0902112789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Ion Stoian, the Romanian president's envoy, pointed out in his talks with the prime minister and the foreign minister that his country believes the PLO must be an active partner in the negotiations for a settlement in the region.

Minister Arens reiterated the stand that the PLO is not a partner for dialogue and that Israel is interested in direct talks with Arab countries.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Romanian envoy conferred this morning with Prime Minister Shamir, giving him a message from President Nicolae Ceausescu. The prime minister thanked President Ceausescu for his efforts in the cause of peace.

Mediation Offer Rejected

TA1002131489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Victor Levi]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday rejected Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's initiative to bring the positions of Israel and the PLO closer. Ceausescu offered to mediate the opening of the first direct, unofficial dialogue between the two sides.

The proposal was raised in the meeting Shamir and Arens held yesterday with Ion Stoian, the Romanian president's envoy. According to Ceausescu, the PLO has become more moderate, thus creating the opportunity to open a dialogue. Shamir conveyed Israel's appreciation to the president and explained his objections to the mediation efforts. Arens said that the participation of a terror organization in the political process would drive away the prospects for peace. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Ilan Bakhar on page 5 of section A, Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 10 February adds that Stoian informed Shamir and Peres that "Romania had given its approval to the PLO to raise the level of its representation in Bucharest to that of an embassy."]

Sharon, UK Counterpart Discuss Arab Boycott

TA0802060289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Britain's trade secretary, Lord Young, has agreed to raise the question of the Arab trade boycott of Israel with Britain's European partners. The commitment was given during a meeting yesterday with Israeli Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon. With more details, Jerry Lewis in London:

[Begin recording] Ari'el Sharon used the opportunity of a courtesy call with his British counterpart, Lord Young, to outline some of the effects the Arab trade boycott has on Israel's economy, not least of all the difficulties in trying to do business or secure investments from European companies who succumb to the threat of the boycott's administrators of losing lucrative Arab contracts. Lord Young is understood to have agreed to raise the issue at the appropriate forum within the EEC and to seek Britain's European partners' agreement to secure legislation intended to make compliance with the boycott illegal.

Both ministers expressed satisfaction with the level of and trends in bilateral trade. A quarter of Israel's EEC exports comes to Britain. Last year's total of $728 million represented a 16.5-percent increase over the previous year, and British exports to Israel, running at a similar level, placed Israel as Britain's second largest market in the Middle East, after Saudi Arabia.

However, to further enhance trade prospects in the important field of high tech research and development, Britain and Israel have agreed to arrange for a series of top-level industrial management exchanges. Four such missions will travel to Israel and at least one will visit Britain during 1989.

Ari'el Sharon also mentioned problems facing Israeli businessmen seeking to trade with Third World countries with whom Israel has yet to formalize diplomatic relations. Lord Young is understood to have offered the assistance of British agencies in such countries to facilitate contacts between their companies and Israel.

While the question of Israel's trading relations with the EEC was also touched on, current impediments will be aired during Ari'el Sharon's meetings with Britain's deputy foreign secretary, Lynda Chalker, later today. [end recording]

PLO Might Accept Elections Before Conference

TA1002113889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[text] New York—An American member of the Palestine National Council says he believes the PLO would accept "parallel steps" such as internationally supervised elections in the West Bank and Gaza in advance of an international Middle East peace conference.

In a telephone interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Prof. Ibrahim Abu Lughod (Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois), who together with PNC colleague Prof. Edward said met with then-Secretary of State George Shultz last year, said he believes the prospect of an international conference is "some distance off" and that movement toward the conference is "a gradual process."

Therefore, Abu Lughod said, "if a proper context can be found to allow the Israeli army to retire from populated areas; to allow the greater flow of funds (to the Israeli-administered territories); to allow the freeing of prisoners and the opening of schools—all consistent with a long-term comprehensive settlement—I think we will support it. We are very concerned with the health and welfare of our people under occupation. Not a single positive step taken by Israel would go unnoticed."

Abu Lughod, known to be a close supporter of 'Arafat's positions in Fatah and an accurate interpreter of those positions in the West, said the PLO cannot accept "elections (in the administered territories) under the supervision of (Defence Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin." He

said, however, that "if there is an international commission—perhaps composed of the U.S., Britain, and European representatives—to witness both the (Israeli) withdrawal process and the elections—then it might fly. It would have to be clear, however, that the elections were not a unilateral step, but a move toward a comprehensive solution."

'Uprising' Cost Estimated at 400 Million Shekels

TA0902152789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The intifadah [uprising] is expected to cost approximately 250 million shekels over the next fiscal year. This was reported this morning by Defense Ministry officials to the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees. Our correspondent in the Knesset Dov Gilhar reports that the expenses incurred due to the disturbances in the territories so far amounts to approximately 400 million shekels.

Families Informed of Intent To Demolish Homes

TA1002120889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] For the first time since the 6-Day War, the IDF informed nine families in Judaea and Samaria of its intention to demolish or seal up their homes. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the announcements were made in response to the High Court of Justice's call to enable people whose homes are to be demolished to appeal the decision. The houses belong to Arabs suspected of membership in organizations that harmed state security.

The security forces are also reported to have uncovered several Arab terrorist squads in the territories that operated against IDF forces and attacked Arab residents suspected of maintaining close ties with Israel. In Zahiriyah, security forces uncovered a terrorist squad suspected of throwing firebombs at Israeli vehicles. A passenger in an Arab-owned vehicle was hurt in one of the attacks. During the investigation, the squad members handed over a revolver and a grenade in their possession. In Hebron and Qalqilyah, members of another squad that hurled firebombs were arrested. Squads were also uncovered in Janin, Kafr Hudah, and Kafr Thulth in Samaria. The members of these squads took revenge on residents who aided Israel. One of them hurled a firebomb at a police van.

In the 'Afula Magistrate's Court, five residents of Tulkarm suspected of participating in this week's riot at the entrance to the Megiddo prison were remanded in custody. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that nine other inhabitants of the territories detained following the riot were transferred to other units for further interrogation.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Houses in Gaza Sealed

TA0902115889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces sealed two structures and demolished one house in the Gaza Strip today. The houses belonged to Arab residents who had been involved in disturbances and terrorist acts.

In Gaza's Rimal neighborhood, the security forces sealed a room in the house of a man who had participated in an attack on a bus transporting prisoners and caused the injury of an IDF soldier in the course of the incident.

In Dayr al-Balah, the IDF sealed a building and demolished another. The owners of these houses belonged to a squad that had placed roadside charges and thrown Molotov cocktails at IDF patrols.

Boy Dies; Curfew Imposed

TA0902184589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Eight-year-old Talal Bishara died today in a Nabulus hospital from wounds he received when a suspicious object exploded on Saturday.

A curfew was imposed this afternoon on the refugee camp of Qaddurah in Ramallah following disturbances. Clashes occurred when rumors spread that the security prisoner killed during the riot at Megiddo prison yesterday was a resident of the camp.

A general strike was observed throughout the territories today to mark the beginning of the 15th month of the uprising. Gaza sources say six residents of the Strip were injured in clashes today. Security forces in Gaza today sealed two houses and destroyed a third. The structures belonged to Gaza Strip residents who were involved in attacks.

House in Janin Demolished

TA1002081089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] This morning security forces demolished the home of a youth in the village of Buruqin in the Janin district because he participated in activities against residents suspected of having links with Israel and attacked several of them.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that security forces recently detained several Buruqin youths who attacked residents suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

Further on 9 Feb Incidents

TA1002113589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 89 p 22

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Andy Court, and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Reports from Nabulus said vandals smashed windows of the Haj Fattuh mosque with stones, and hurled volumes of the Koran to the floor Wednesday night, breaking the windows of cars parked in the area. Former mayor Hafiz Tuqan, who visited the scene, said it was the second such incident at the mosque in the last three weeks, and that he suspected settlers were involved. A Civil Administration spokesman said the Nabulus military government had no knowledge of such an incident.

Also yesterday, three Palestinians were wounded in clashes with troops on the second day of a 48-hour general strike to mark the start of the 15th month of the uprising.

Marches were reported in several villages in the Ramallah area to mark today's anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party. Heavy clashes were reported at the 'Ayun Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp in Nabulus between troops and protesters, who, according to local reports, wore distinctive headgear: Fatah supporters wore black keffiyahs, backers of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine wore red keffiyahs, and activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) wore black masks over their faces and bands of green, the color of Islam. Clashes were also reported near Nabulus's old city.

Villagers at Dayr Sharaf, west of Nabulus, charged that settlers cut down 20 olive trees in the village after Israeli cars were stoned in the area. [passage omitted]

Otherwise, the second day of the general strike to mark the end of 14 months of the uprising passed in Gaza without violent incidents, the IDF spokesman reported. Palestinians, however, reported eight light shooting injuries in clashes in Gaza, Khan Yunus, and Rafah.

There was another riot among Arab prisoners in the military jail in Megiddo yesterday afternoon, and the authorities used massive amounts of tear gas to restore order. The incident followed a hunger strike by the inmates who were still disturbed by Wednesday's violence in the prison, which left one dead and 19 wounded. Soon after yesterday's riot began, prison commander Yehuda Saranga ordered the firing of tear gas into the cells.

Jerusalem 'Rioters' Dispersed

TA1002122989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] During the past few hours there have been attempts to disturb the peace in Jerusalem's Old City. Police forces rushed to the scene used tear gas grenades to disperse the rioters. At present, tempers have been calmed, our correspondent Mikha'el Miro reports.

West Bank, Gaza Residents Feel Economic Pinch

TA1002122389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 89 pp 1, 16

[Report by economics editor Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Text] Israel's trade surplus in goods and services exported to the West Bank and Gaza totalled only $56 million in 1988, a two-thirds drop from the previous year.

This fall was a direct result of the intifadah [uprising], which significantly diminished the economic ties between Israel and the territories. In 1987, Israel's surplus totalled $174m [million]. The figure for 1988 is a Bank of Israel estimate, and is published for the first time here.

Last year, Israel's exports to the territories dropped to an estimated $650m. from $928m. in 1987. Service exports remained almost constant, at $215m., compared with $220m. the previous year. At the same time, Israel's imports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip dropped to $170m., compared with $304m. in 1987. Services that Israel purchases from the territories—mainly its labour force—dropped to $639m., compared with $670m. in 1987.

According to Central Bank estimates, Israel's total surpluses with the territories in terms of goods and services will remain low, around the $60m. mark.

According to other governmental estimates, the number of authorized workers from the territories who show up for work on a regular basis is around 78-79 per cent of that during the pre-intifadah period.

From these figures, it seems that at least 90,000 workers from the territories are still working in Israel, compared with 114,000 in the last quarter of 1987.

According to informed assessments, there is no way of reconstructing the economic relationship between the territories and Israel. Israeli firms are gradually dropping their Arab workers from the territories and searching for substitutes such as automation and workers from abroad.

The government's tendency is to approve more sophisticated enterprises and to allow more imports. At the same time, Arabs from the territories have no choice but to work in Israel in the short term. The lack of business enterprises in the West Bank and the continuing deterioration in the Jordanian economy leave no possibility of finding work there.

West Bank and Gaza inhabitants are also feeling the economic pinch of recent and cumulative developments. The government's new economic policy has increased the prices of basic foods, which are subsidized and still popular in the territories, mainly in areas close to the Green Line. At the same time, there has been an erosion in the purchasing power of the shekel and the dinar.

Since the West Bank and Gaza do not have a developed financial savings system, most of the residents have tended to save in dinars, which they either deposited in banks in Amman or kept at home. The significant devaluation of the dinar—by more than 40 per cent against the dollar during the last year—has left many families with greatly diminished savings. They now prefer the shekel to the dinar when they cannot acquire dollars.

Without jobs or savings, and having to pay higher prices, the residents of the territories will have to contend with a 50 per cent drop in their standard of living compared with the pre-intifadah level.

This will further frustrate the Palestinians and put them in a strange situation—working in Israel during the day and fighting their masters at night.

Palestinian Living Standards Fall by 50 Percent

TA0702144889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The Ramallah Chamber of Commerce said that during the year of the uprising the standard of living of Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria has dropped by 50 percent.

A research project carried out by the chamber showed that per capita income dropped from $1,500 to $700 during the year. During the past 8 months, the value of the Jordanian dinar fell from 5.20 shekels to 2.70 shekels, while the shekel-denominated debts of the inhabitants of the West Bank doubled.

Another statistic that appears in the research is the shortage of cash resulting from a drop in the income of workers in the territories because of the lower demand for them.

Bethlehem Official on Severe Funds Shortage

JN0502132889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Acting Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasir has stated that the muncipality suffers from a financial deficit that has reached 85 percent of the total amount of the ordinary budget, and that in view of this state of affairs, the municipality will not be able to fulfill its commitments, and will be forced to reduce the services it provides to citizens. Our correspondent Fayiz 'Umar has met with Hanna Nasir.

[Begin recording] [Nasir] The financial deficit results from the citizens' inability to settle their obligations to the municipality and the supension of payments by the Civilian Administration of funds that are due to the municipality from fuel revenues and other taxes the muncipality is entitled to obtain from the Civil Administration. Of course, in light of this, the municipality cannot fulfill its obligations to the town of Bethlehem, particularly with respect to payment of the employees' salaries. The employees have not received salaries for the past 2 months of December and January. This poses a real problem and we do not know how to overcome it.

['Umar] With respect to support from outside, have you not received any financial support at this stage?

[Nasir] The Bethlehem municipality has not received any financial support from outside over the past 5 years. There is no hope at present that the situation will change and that the Bethlehem municipality would received outside support.

['Umar] Do I understand from what you have said that the vital projects undertaken by the municipality and those it will undertake will be suspended if the state of affairs continues as it is?

[Nasir] There is no doubt about this. The citizen is now experiencing general confusion. I would like to explain here that this confusion has become more apparent following the decrease in the value of the Jordanian dinar on the market. Following all this, Bethlehem municipality has requested that the Israeli authorities allow their various departments to accept the Jordanian dinar and not to insist on only accepting the shekel. This will help the citizens. Bethlehem municipality accepts the Jordanian dinar for the settlement of taxes. We appeal to the Civilian Administration to issue orders to all departments so that they may accept the Jordanian dinar, since it is an official currency like the shekel.

As for the projects to which you have referred, such as water and sewage projects, the water project was approved a long time ago. We are in the process of implementing it. We will complete very soon the construction of the first water reservoir. This will serve the three municipalities [not further identified]. As for the sewage project, an agreement in principle was reached, and we hope that we can continue to provide our services through the municipal council so that we may be able to follow up the implementation of this giant project that we will implement for the three cities. [end recording]

Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, commented on Nasir's statement by saying that the Civil Administration has paid part of the cost of fuel to several municipalities in the West Bank and that it will pay the cost of fuel to the other municipalities. He said that such payment depends on the amount of taxes that are collected from the citizens. He added: As for the settlement of taxes in Jordanian currency, this has been in force for a long time. Those who cannot obtain shekels can go to the banks to change dinars for shekels.

Frayj Asks for Emergency Aid

TA0702195289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has made an urgent appeal to the ruler of Abu Dhabi to extend emergency aid to cover Bethlehem's deficit. The deficit constitutes 80 percent of the town's $2 million budget.

Mr Frayj is currently in Amman in an attempt to organize emergency aid for his town. He has appealed to the Abu Dhabi ruler because Bethlehem is a twin city of the oil shaykhdom's capital.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that most Arab municipalities in Judaea and Samaria suffer from large financial deficits that could paralyze their activities.

Bank Director Denies Assets Turned Into Shekels

JN0902103589 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Madhat Kan'an, director of the Cairo-Amman Bank branches in the West Bank, today denied reports that the bank has turned its assets into shekels. He said the bank's assets remain the same as previously and no change in them has occurred.

Foreign Trade Surplus Registered in January

TA1002113289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 89 p 18

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] January 1989 saw Israel register its first monthly foreign trade surplus in many years, of $70 million, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Adjusted for seasonal factors, the latest data showed that the trade deficit had narrowed by 20 percent over the last two months, compared to October and November. The bureau added that seasonally adjusted exports figures showed a 15 percent rise in December and January over the previous two months, while imports dropped by 20 percent. Most of this improvement had taken place in January.

Economic observers said that foreign trade figures were a reflection of the devaluation expectations that had developed in the final months of 1988, and of the eventual adjustment in the rate of exchange of the shekel. The observers said the import figures for the last quarter of 1988 were artificially high, since private consumers and firms had decided to advance their foreign purchases to beat a devaluation. Exporters delayed sales for the same reason, bringing a drop in overseas sales.

The figures for last month were not the result of the devaluation, since it could not have had an immediate influence, the observers said. Rather, they reflected the adjustments of exports and imports, and reflected conditions before the devaluation.

The bureau said that exports totalled $820 million last month. It added that the level of exports for January was 21 percent higher than the average for the last quarter of 1988, and 18 percent higher than in the second and third quarters of that year.

The figures showed that industrial exports averaged $576 million in the last two months, about 11 percent more than in October and November. Exports of metal, machinery and electronic goods surged by about 25 percent. Exports of manufactured food products fell 6.5 percent, while those of textiles rose by 7 percent and of plastic goods by 14 percent.

Imports totalled $750m [million], according to the bureau's figures. It indicated that this level was 30 percent below that of the last quarter of 1988.

Consumer goods imports slumped last month, the bureau added, totalling only $88m—a drop of 27 percent for December-January compared to the previous two months. Imports of consumer durables plunged 35 percent during the same period.

Imports of production inputs averaged $413m. in the last two months, 19 percent less than in October and November. For January alone the drop in these imports totalled $130m. compared to the previous quarterly average figure.

IDF Officials End Terms; Others Nominated

TA0502100189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Brigadier General David Hermesh, deputy chief of "A" Branch; and Brigadier General Aharon Ofir, chief of staff for personnel, are ending their term of office in the IDF.

Gen David Hermesh will leave for the United States where he is to serve as "A" Branch attache. Gen Ofir is retiring from the army. Brigadier General Yosi Lipman will be the next deputy chief of "A" Branch. His term as "A" Branch attache in Europe is coming to an end soon, and he will be replaced by Colonel Shlomo Niv.

Colonel Yisra'el 'Enav will be the new chief of staff for personnel. He will be promoted to brigadier general.

New Police Central District Commander Appointed

TA0402173989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Commander Ya'aqov Terner was appointed commander of the police Central District. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that he replaces Commander Enosh Giv'ati, who is retiring from the police after 38 years service.

Al-Qasim Comments on Economic Grouping, Lebanon

JN0902081289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Feb 89 pp 1, 16

[By Rabab Mangu]

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the first meeting of the Arab economic grouping, at the level of the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and the YAR, will be held in Amman Tuesday [14 February] within the framework of coordination among the countries of this grouping. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Al-Qasim stressed that the postponement of the first meeting in Amman on 5 February was needed to make the necessary arrangements and preperations for the session and to carry out further studies and examination.

Asked about the hierarchy and level of future coordination among the countries of the economic grouping, he said: The hierarchy will be discussed in the first session, and coordination will be at the summit level. Coordination among the countries of the grouping will continue to improve means of performance. Any hierarchy adopted by the four countries will achieve better performance than was seen in the past for the mutual benefit of these countries. Al-Qasim denied that the higher bilateral committees among the countries of the grouping will be dissolved. These ministerial committees will continue their normal action and will not be canceled, he said.

On whether this economic grouping represents a political orientation toward common Arab action on various Arab issues, Al-Qasim described the current Arab positions on all fateful issues as identical and unified. He said: The Arab stand is unified and identical. It supports the inclination toward convening the international peace conference on the Middle East. This confirms that there is full harmony among Arab countries. Also, the Arab countries, such as Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Gulf countries support the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran leading to a comprehensive peace treaty.

Asked whether the economic grouping means the existence of disagreements in opinion and interpretation with Arab countries outside the grouping, such as Syria, on Arab issues, he stressed that the positions of these countries and that of Syria are harmonious and the same. He said: The Arab and the Syrian stands on the international conference is one and the same within the comprehensive Arab concept. There is no longer any room for Israel to hide behind any of the Arab stands, which it used to take as execuses. In light of this, Israel cannot continue its stands, and should change its intentions.

He continued: During the latest meetings in Tunis, we felt a positive Arab contribution by all parties in an attempt to help Lebanon. Asked about a possible imminent joining by some Arab countries of the quadripartite economic grouping, he explained that this grouping is not a closed club. He said: The economic grouping is an attraction point to whoever finds in this framework a means of receiving and giving benefit. It is not a closed club for the four countries.

Asked about the extent of the connection between the visit to Amman today by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the meeting scheduled in Amman Tuesday for the the countries of the economic grouping, he explained that Al- Zu'bi's visit comes within the arrangements of the meetings of the higher bilateral committees between the two countries. He said: The visit to Amman today by the Syrian prime minister, who heads a delegation, comes within the framework of the meetings of the joint committees on the ministerial level.

Asked about the recent meetings in Tunis of the Arab ministerial committee on Lebanon and reports suggesting that the committee produced no tangible resolutions, he stressed that there is a positive contribution by all parties to save Lebanon. "It is very difficult to say whether or not an agreement on Lebanon was reached during the recent Tunis meetings. The picture was not complete because not all the Lebanese parties were listened to," he said. He added: There are many Lebanese parties, and we ought to listen to them all. After the picture has been completed, there will be room for attempts to do something positive, and the Arab foreign ministers will have a clear, integrated report.

The foreign minister pointed out that the ministerial committee meetings on the Lebanese problem may be extended until the committee comes up with something. He said: There might be a third or fourth meeting until the picture becomes fully clear so that priorities are determined and necessary constitutional changes in Lebanon are effected. We hope to see these changes characterized by some kind of objectivity and keeness of all parties on the unity, independence, and sovereignty of Lebanon.

He confirmed that the extraordinary Arab "Lebanese summit" will be held before the ordinary Arab summit. He said: The convening of the extraordinary summit depends on the Lebanese role, which paves the way and gives chances for the success of the Lebanese-Lebanese reconciliation. This will definetely be a factor facilitating the convening of an extraordinary summit to return Lebanon to an almost normal situation.

Asked whether changes on the Arab scene and progress of events will make possible the convening of an ordinary Arab summit before the visit of His Majesty King Husayn to Washington in the spring, Al-Qasim said that there is no connection between the two events. He said: No time has yet been fixed for his majesty's visit to Washington. There is no connection between his majesty's visit to Washington and the convening of the ordinary Arab summit. Any meeting at the Arab summit level is welcomed anytime.

On the meeting that will take place in Tokyo between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bush during the funeral of late Emperor Hirohito on 22 February, he said the meeting was upon the request of the U.S. Administration. On the Palestinian representation at the international conference, he said: There have been several changes regarding the issue of Palestinian representation. After the PLO publicly and unequivocally met the U.S. demands for attending the international conference, why do the other parties not accept an independent PLO delegation?

Asked about the new U.S. Administration's declared policy in the Middle East and the position of the Middle East issue in its list of priorities, Al-Qasim said: I am not under the impression that the Middle East is excluded from the U.S. list of priorities. However, it is up to the U.S. Administration to decide this. He added: We hope that the new U.S. Administration will handle the Middle East issue seriously.

Reportage on Joint Committee Talks With Syria

Delegation Arrives 7 Feb

JN0702131589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Al-Ramtha—The Syrian delegation to the meetings of the preparatory committee for the higher Jordanian-Syrian joint committee session arrived in Amman this morning. The delegation, headed by Syrian Central Bank Governor Muhammad al-Sharif, comprises a number of senior officials from the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Electricity, and the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade.

'Preparatory' Meetings Begin

JN0702213989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—The meetings of the preparatory committee which will prepare for the meetings of the higher joint Jordanian-Syrian committee began in Amman this evening.

The committee will discuss over a 3-day period the frameworks for bilateral cooperation, coordination, and integration between the two fraternal states in the economic, financial, monetary, social, cultural and transport domains. Of special interest will be issues pertaining to trade and ways to bolster and develop it and increase its volume in a manner commensurate with the strong economic ties binding the two states. The committee will also discuss the situation of the joint companies and that of the Syrian-Jordanian Bank. Furthermore, the committee will discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of land and air transport, and electricity. The committee will also discuss the issue of reviving the meetings of joint committees.

Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and head of the Jordanian side to the talks, affirmed the importance of holding the meetings of the higher committee in laying down a new brick in the edifice of the economic relations between the two countries and said: The higher Syrian-Jordanian committee was the first inter-Arab joint committee to be established. It has become a model to be emulated in inter-Arab relations. If it means anything, it means that this unique experience has succeeded.

Al-Saqqaf touched on the march of integration and coordination between Jordan and Syria and called for further fruitful and constructive bilateral cooperation in various spheres in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. He also reviewed what has been accomplished in bilateral cooperation and asserted the need to resume the work of the joint subcommittees which emanated from the higher committee as soon as possible so that they can submit their recommendations to the higher committee in its forthcoming meetings.

For his part, Muhammad al-Sharif, Syrian Central Bank governor and head of the Syrian side to the talks, affirmed that the experience of the higher Jordanian-Syrian committee has been and will continue to be a unique experience, as it emanates from sublime pan-Arab principles and as it also sincerely expresses the strong fraternal ties binding the Jordanian and Syrian peoples.

The Jordanian side to the preparatory committee meetings was comprised of Eng Mahmud al-Talhuni, secretary general of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications; Dr Mahir Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Nayif al-Hadid, Jordanian ambassador in Damascus; 'Asim al-Hindawi, head of the Department of Economic Cooperation and Exports Development at the Ministry of Industry; a number of officials at the Ministries of Industry and Transportation; and the director general of the Jordanian Company for the Manufacturing and Marketing of Agricultural Produce.

As for the Syrian side to the talks, it was comprised of the assistant transport minister, the director general of the Qasyun Company, the director general of the Syrian Construction Firm, the head of the Economic Affairs Department at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, planning director at the Ministry of Supply, the planning director at the Ministry of Industry, and the director of the Vegetable and Fruit Company.

Talks Begin

JN0902144989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Amman—The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee began its meetings at the Prime Ministry today. The Jordanian side was headed by Prime Minister

Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Syrian side by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. At the outset of the meeting, Prime Minister al-Rifa'i welcomed the fraternal Syrian delegation and praised the existing fraternal relations between the two countries founded by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

In his reply speech, Prime Minister al-Zu'bi praised the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries and expressed his country's desire to further strengthen and develop these relations in the interest of the peoples of both countries. Al-Zu'bi had stated upon his arrival at Amman Airport [earlier today] that his visit to Jordan and his meeting with Prime Minister al-Rifa'i is an embodiment of joint Arab action through the distinguished Syrian-Jordanian relations. [passage omitted]

The Syrian prime minister is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Eng Yusuf al-Ahmad, minister of transport; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Antoine Jubran, minister of industry; and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Trade, Bilateral Ties Discussed

JN0902180089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The two sides reviewed the topics listed on the committee's agenda as well as the recommendations submitted to it by the preparatory committee. It was agreed to fix the sum of $200 million as a target to be attained by the two sides to reflect the bilateral trade volume. They agreed that this target figure will be realized through the concluding of an equal deal and also through increasing the shares of commercial centers and specialized exhibitions. It was also decided to call all subcommittees emanating from the higher committee—the subcommittees numbering 18—to meet within a 3-month period to draw up reports on developing the bilateral relations between the two countries in all spheres with the understanding that these reports will be submitted to the joint higher committee at its next session.

The joint higher committee also discussed the situation of joint companies, especially the Carpet Company, the White Cement Company, the Land and Marine Transport Company, the duty-free zone, and the Syrian-Jordanian Bank.

The Jordanian side to the talks comprised the deputy prime minister and education minister; the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the ministers of information, water and irrigation, agriculture, public works, industry and trade, and supply; the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade; the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus; and the economic adviser at the Prime Ministry.

As for the Syrian side to the talks, it comprised the deputy prime minister for economic affairs; the ministers of agriculture, transport, economy and trade, and industry; the minister of state for foreign affairs; the Syrian ambassador in Amman; and a number of specialists.

Delegation Meets King Husayn

JN0902171389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation. His majesty the king was briefed by both Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Mahmud al-Zu'bi on the progress of the talks being held within the framework of the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee and on what the committee has accomplished so far.

His majesty the king voiced satisfaction over the progress that has been realized in this regard and affirmed the importance of enhancing the ties of cooperation in the interest of the two fraternal states. Al-Zu'bi conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the greetings and best wishes of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

They reviewed joint Arab action and ways to develop it in all spheres, especially at the current phase which the Arab nation is going through—the phase which requires further solidarity, coordination, and closure of ranks. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, the special adviser to his majesty the king, the deputy prime minister and education minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the minister of industry and trade, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by the Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs; the ministers of agriculture, transport, industry; the minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Syrian ambassador in Amman. Those attending the meeting had lunch with His Majesty King Husayn.

Hizballah Commentary on Arab Committee Meetings
NC0802085089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0645 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Political commentary: "The Arab Initiative Is American Ideas Wrapped in Kuwaiti Keffiyah"]

[Text] The Arab initiative on Lebanon as conducted by the Arab six-man committee led by the Kuwaiti foreign minister raises many questions as to its motives and the nature of its role. The most salient drawback of that committee is that it assumes a neutral stance among the rival Lebanese groups. The committee invites the two Lebanese parties on equal footing and deals with them on an equal basis. The committee listens as dutifully to the party which demands reforms in Lebanon as it does to the party which, while demanding the withdrawal of non-Lebanese armies, places the emphasis not on the Israeli withdrawal, which presumably is difficult to attain, but on the Syrian withdrawal.

The committee and its chairman deem that their pan-Arab obligations force them to discuss and listen to the demands of both parties, to try to find common denominators, and to meet a certain minimum of these. The committee believes that if the objective of meeting a certain minimum of these demands proves to be too daunting, the discussion of these demands should be postponed to a later stage. Immediate efforts should, instead, concentrate on arrangements for the election of a Lebanese president.

In other words, the committee acts as a referee between two parties: one with national and Islamic affiliations and the other with known Israeli preferences. The committee is trying to find a common ground between the Arab and nationalist ideas and the Israeli ones. If the committee succeeds in reaching any solution, this solution will necessarily be a compromise between Arab ideas and the Zionist influence in Lebanon. What is more, some people truly believe that in doing so the committee is actually carrying out its pan-Arab responsibilities. That the Arabs should mediate between the Zionist political and military influence on one hand and the Islamic, Arab, and nationalist presence in Lebanon on the other is outright sinful. It is a flagrant breach of the Arab duty to support the Arab, Islamic, and national choices of Lebanon.

That the day has come when the Arabs mediate such opposed stands means that the Arabs' perspective of the Arab-Israeli conflict has narrowed. It means that that conflict has been dwarfed in the eyes of the Arabs, who now see it as a mere political difference between two countries or regimes, or as just another border dispute among many in the world. This is a sinful and deadly mistake. It is also a deviation from the Arabs' political line.

The fact that the Arabs are playing the role of mediator indicates that their initiative is not propelled by pan-Arab motives but by other political ones. Among the latter is the U.S. diplomatic campaign in Lebanon, a campaign which merely seeks to gain time.

It is not difficult to detect the similarities between the Arab role exerted through the six-man committee and the U.S. initiatives on Lebanon. This being the case, we cannot but state that the Arab initiative is merely American ideas wrapped in an Arab Kuwaiti keffiyah [traditional Bedouin headdress]. This is the reason behind the U.S. and European support for the initiative.

Is it political realism that has dictated such unstable, unclear, and indecisive dealings with a side known for its pro-Israeli political and military stands? The danger in the Arab initiative on the Lebanese crisis is even more than just that. What we fear most of all is that the goal of this Arab initiative may be to gather the cards of the Lebanese crisis in the same manner with which the cards of the Palestinian crisis were gathered through Yasir 'Arafat's Arab-Palestinian initiative, which culminated in the recognition of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and of the State of Israel.

The spirit of the recent Arab moves and positions is that of political realism, of balancing interests, of making compromises on fateful issues and matters of principles, chief of which is the issue of Palestine. This happens at a time when Israel consistently seeks to make gains without giving concessions in return. If this is the spirit which inspires the Arab initiative, we will have to expect the Arab committee to acknowledge the Maronite privileges and to reinstitute much of the Maronite political power so as to maintain a certain balance of power or of fear. The committee may also demand security guarantees for Israel, so as to bring about its withdrawal from the Lebanese south.

It has been relatively easy to gather the Palestinian cards due to the strength of such leaders as Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues in the PLO Executive Committee. But the gathering of the Lebanese cards is going to present additional difficulties. This is because the majority of the Lebanese, Muslims and nationalists, have made up their minds and decided to continue to resist the Israeli occupation and fight the injustice of the Maronite regime. Our people are capable of differentiating between two kinds of initiatives: those which stand up for the Muslims' struggle for their causes, and those which are inspired by hostile U.S. and Western designs and which aim at using this region to serve U.S. policies and interests and to promote Israel's security.

Iranian-Palestinian Coordination To Be Stepped Up
NC0902130789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] According to a security report from the South, the Iranian Embassy in Damascus, in cooperation with the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, has asked the Iranian Revolution Guards in Al-Biqa' to step up military coordination with the Palestinian organizations, especially those

which belong to the pro-'Arafat Fatah. The Palestinians, the report adds, are strengthening their positions inside and around the Tyre camps for fear of renewed tension between them and the Amal Movement now that the Amal-Hizballah clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been halted. People close to Hasan Ja'far, alias Abu Jamal, official in the Amal regular army, have cited him as saying that about 300 Palestinian fighters wearing civilian clothes have arrived at Al-Rashidiyah camp since the signing of the Damascus accord ended the Amal-Hizballah battles.

Meanwhile, a number of Amal leaders have called for a meeting to be held in the town of Zifta in the next few days to discuss these developments.

Assassination of PSP's Al-Fatayri Reported

NC0902153389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Security sources have just reported that there was an assassination attempt against PSP [Central Committee member and former secretary general] official Anwar al-Fatayri 2 hours ago in the Al-Jahiliyah area. One of his companions was killed in the attempt. [passage omitted] We have just been informed that Al-Fatayri was killed.

PSP Source on 'Culprits'

NC0902201589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1733 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] A responsible source in the PSP has stated the following:

Strict security measures have been taken under the direct supervision of the PSP leader in an attempt to apprehend the criminals who committed the abominable crime against Anwar al-Fatayri, a prominent nationalist figure in the PSP and in the nationalist struggle in Lebanon for several years. The culprits in this crime will not escape the punishment they deserve, and the blood of the great martyr, Anwar al-Fatayri, will not be spilled in vain.

PSP Forces Deploy in Al-Shuf

NC0902201989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Forces of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] have been extensively deployed in various areas in Al-Shuf folowing the assassination of PSP official Anwar al-Fatayri and his companion in an armed ambush in the town of Al-Jahiliyah.

We note that Al-Fatayri was a PSP leader. Syria had asked Walid Junblatt to dismiss him from the party because he was linked to both the PLO and Israel. Al-Fatayri also represented the anti-Syria current in the PSP. [passage omitted]

PSP Security Detains 15

NC0902204789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Members of the PSP security organ have arrested 15 people from the villages of Sirjbal, Al-Jahiliyah, and Binwati for interrogation about the assassination of PSP official Anwar al-Fatayri at 1500 today at the entrance to Al-Jahiliyah. Al-Fatayri was touring some villages to explain PSP leader Walid Junblatt's initiative on Christian evacuees' returning to their townships.

Assassin Said Arrested

NC1002124989 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Al-Mukhatarah, Lebanon, Feb 10 (AFP)—The Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party said Friday that the assassination Thursday of one of its senior officials was aimed at undermining a PSP bid to return Christians to their homes.

It also said it had arrested the assassin of Anwar al-Fatayri, 43, who had been a member of its consultative council and had served as commander-in-chief of the party's militia for 20 years.

The PSP identified the alleged assassin as Yusuf Salman al-'Ayyas, 45, a memebr of the Druze community.

Mr. al-Fatayri was killed when his car was sprayed with bullets near Al-Jahiliyah in the Druze-controlled Al-Shuf Mountains southeast of the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

His bodyguard was also fatally wounded in the attack while passenger, George Dib, the Christian mayor of Dayr al-Qamar, was wounded in the legs.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt offered last month to allow the return of some 150,000 Christians who fled the Al-Shuf region in 1983, when the Druze defeated the powerful Lebanese Forces militia.

Mr. al-Fatayri and Mr. Dib were touring the Al-Shuf to explain the "national unity" initiative to residents there, the PSP said.

"The traitors who assassinated Anwar al-Fatayri wanted to sabotage the national unity process launched by Walid Junblatt," the PSP and leftist parties said in a statement issued here.

The suspected killer, Mr. al-'Ayyas, was arrested overnight Thursday along with 30 squatters who were occupying the homes of Christians in Al-Jahiliyah and who were protesting their return when Mr. al-Fatayri was gunned down.

A strike was meanwhile underway in the Al-Shuf ahead of Mr. al-Fatayri's funeral ceremonies in Al-Mukhtarah, hometown of the Junblatt family which founded the PSP

Mr Junblatt meanwhile received messages of condolences from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and from the secretary general of the ruling Syrian Ba'th Party, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar.

Junblatt To 'Punish' Assassins

NC1002134089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Speech by PSP leader Walid Junblatt during a euology ceremony for assassinated PSP official Anwar al-Fatayri on 10 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] We will continue the march, despite the great loss. We will continue the road and the march that you, our beloved Anwar al-Fatayri, have walked with our teacher Kamal Junblatt. You have remained loyal to the march of Arabism, nationalism, and coexistence, fought for them in all trenches and positions, and were martyred for their sake yesterday.

I do not believe that there is anyone on this mountain who does not want coexistence. I do not believe that there is anybody in Lebanon who does not want coexistence. It is a message much greater than this. It is a message by the Zionist apparatuses and by those who have tried to partition Lebanon. This is the true meaning of the message. As for those who carried out the assassination, they are a handful of mercenaries whom we will punish severely.

Comarade Anwar: We euologize you today, as we did Comrade Kamal Junblatt before. Today we bid you farewell and tell you that we will remain loyal to the oath. We will continue the difficult and strenuous nationalist task of liberating Lebanon from all types of isolationists, advocates of sectarianism, mercenaries, pro-Israelis, and Zionists in order to preserve Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and the true coexistence on this mountain. [passage omitted]

Further on Resumption of Red Cross Activities

NC0702122089 Paris AFP in English 1213 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 7 (AFO)—Swiss aid workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are to resume work in Lebanon later this week, ICRC spokeswoman Francoise Derron said Tuesday.

She said between three and six delegates would look after prisoners held in Lebanese jails and carry messages between them and their families in a first step before resuming regular visits to detention centers.

The ICRC, which stopped its activities six weeks ago after it said delegates had received death threats, will make a "gradual" comeback until as many as 30 Swiss representatives are in Lebanon, said Ms. Derron. [passage omitted]

Workers Arrive

NC0902065089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Now that it has been decided to resume the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Lebanon, a number of ICRC workers arrived in Beirut last night. ICRC operations in Lebanon were suspended for 2 months because of acts of kidnapping and aggression against Red Cross employees and representatives.

Army, Lebanese Forces Clash in Al-Judayah 10 Feb

NC1002103689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The leaders concerned are dealing with a shooting incident between Lebanese Army personnel and Lebanese Forces members in Al-Judaydah this morning.

Clashes Leave 6 Casualties

NC1002130389 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The power struggle among the parties to the 'Awn-Ja'ja' alliance escalated into fighting today. Clashes between Army personnel and Lebanese Forces members erupted in the Al-Judaydah area near the Al-Hikmah school at 1045 this morning. The fighting left an Army officer and two members of the Lebanese forces dead and three persons wounded.

According to reports from the eastern area, the Army declared Measure No 3 among its ranks and announced a general alert in view of these clashes. Tension still reigns, and traffic virtually came to a halt in the area.

At 1145 Lebanese Forces members stopped two Army vehicles in the Al-Nahr area near the Lebanese Forces Headquarters, and beat the military men. Immediately afterward, intensive military activity was witnessed in the area and Lebanese Forces troop carriers were sighted in the neighborhood amid extreme tension.

It should be recalled that the two sides clashed 2 days ago at the 'Uyun al-Siman area. The clashes left a number of casualties. A similar clash occurred earlier in Qurtuba in which 11 persons were wounded.

The fighting comes against a backdrop of leaked information concerning a power struggle between General Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' over the Arab activity and the PSP leader's initiative on returning the displaced Christians to their homes in the mountain.

RFL Details Fighting

NC1002132389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A security incident took place today in the Al-Judaydah area between the passengers of a military vehicle belonging to Lebanese Army commandos and another military vehicle belonging to the Lebanese Forces over the right of way. An Army commando and a member of the Lebanese Forces were wounded.

Consequently, the situation became tense when a commando force interfered to support the crew of the military jeep. The military police of the Lebanese Forces was compelled to become involved. This incident led to great tension in the area. The commandos involved managed to pacify the situation. They then withdrew, after which the military police of the Lebanese Forces also began leaving the area.

The Council of Ministers, which discussed the security incidents that took place in 'Uyun al-Siman in the past few days and in Al-Judaydah area today, charged the Army command with the task of taking the necessary security measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents It drew the atention of the commandos concerned to the need to control their elements so that they may not be involved in security clashes and violations.

Forces on 'Isolated' Incidents

NC1002132789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A Lebanese Forces political source has described today's security incidents as isolated, and emphasized that these have no political background, nor anything to do with the unified stand in the free areas manifested in the Lebanese Forces' support for the legitimate government's positions before, during, and after the Tunis meetings. He stressed the need for action to prevent a recurence of such simple security incidents, which, he said, will not affect the Lebanese Forces' stands at the national level.

Forces Deploy in E. Beirut

NC1002142589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Citing security sources and eyewitnesses, REUTER has reported that Lebanese Forces gunmen have deployed on street corners in residential areas in East Beirut today after exchanging rocket and machinegun fire with Lebanese Army forces, during which five persons were wounded.

REUTER added that Lebanese Forces members roamed the streets in the areas of Al-Judaydah and Al-Dawrah and taken positions on street corners.

Citing Lebanese Army sources, REUTER said that Lebanese Forces have established several posts on the streets to provoke the military forces with which they had clashed earlier. The sources expressed fear that the tension might lead to renewed fighting.

Eyewitnesses have said that seven M-113 troop carriers carrying heavily armed soldiers have proceeded in the direction of Al-Judaydah via the area of Sinn al-Fil.

Rockets Fired at TV Building, Soviet Embassy

NC1002061689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A rocket was fired at the television building in Tallat al-Khayyat [West Beirut] at approximately 2200 last night, hitting the first floor apartment. There were no casualties.

Another rocket was fired 10 minutes later at the Soviet Embassy Building in Corniche al-Mazra'ah, hitting the embassy's wall. There also were no casualties.

IRNA: Hizballah, Amal Observe Peace Agreement

LD0902124489 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 9, IRNA—Hizballah forces Thursday morning withdrew from the villages of Miyah and 'Ayn Buswar in South Lebanon, while Amal militias lifted their siege from other areas, implementing a recent accord between the two Muslim groups to end hostilities.

Hizballah security forces confirmed to IRNA in Beirut that they withdrew their fighters from the two villages at the same time as Amal lifted a blockade of other places in the region.

The agreement would allow citizens expelled from the areas to return to their homes, he said.

Last week Amal and Hizballah signed a peace agreement in Damascus after months of fighting following Iranian and Syrian mediation.

'At Least' 3 Killed in Phalange-Maronite Clashes

LD1002130189 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 10, IRNA—At least three people were killed and five others wounded in clashes between Phalange and Maronite Christian militias Friday.

Lebanese security sources told IRNA the incidents occured in the Al-Jadidah and Al-Fanar districts in Beirut's Christian East.

The atmosphere in the two areas were said to be extremely tense prompting all public and commercial offices to close down.

The clash follows exchanges of fire four days ago between the two rival forces led by Samir Ja'ja' and Michel 'Awn during which 13 combatants from both sides were wounded.

Meanwhile a senior member of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party led by Walid Junblatt was assassinated by unknown gunmen in the Jahiliyah village in the Druze controlled hills of southern Beirut Friday.

Anwar Fatayri a member of the party's Political Bureau and a former party secretary was being driven by car during an investigation of conditions at Christian refugee centers in the area. His bodyguard was also killed.

Druze sources said investigations were underway to identify the killers.

Israeli Planes Fly Over Beirut, Mountain Area
NC1002085189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0848 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Beirut and the mountain area at approximately 0930 this morning.

Libyan Army Commander, Delegation Arrive 9 Feb

JN0902165689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus—Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, and his delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; several high-ranking officers of the Army and Armed Forces; and the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Foreign Relations Bureau [embassy] in Damascus and the bureau staff.

After the airport reception, Gen Talas accompanied the guest to his office at the General Command Headquarters, where a cordial meeting took place in the presence of Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces. The discussion dealt with the fraternal relations between the two fraternal Arab armies and means of developing these relations.

Depart 10 Feb

JN1002131689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, and his delegation left Damascus this morning. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; a number of senior General Command officers; the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Foreign Relations Bureau [embassy] in Damascus; and the bureau's staff.

Al-Shar' Receives New Soviet Ambassador

JN0802142989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received new Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov this morning and was handed a copy of his credentials as ambassador to the SAR.

They discussed means of developing and promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in various fields. They also discussed current events in the region.

AL-BA'TH Cited on U.S. Report on Israel

JN1002085489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Feb 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The World Is Condemning and the Zionists Are Escalating Their Crimes," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist leadership has revealed its unethical stand to the international human rights committees and continued its policy of killing and destruction, indifferent to criticism, denunciation, or the international deliberations at the Security Council—deliberations in which every chapter witnesses the Nazi character of the Zionist entity.

Zionist defiance reached its apex on the 1st day following the issuance of the U.S. State Department report, which confirmed that the occupation army violated Palestinian human rights. As soon as the report was read out before a congressional committee, orders were given to the Zionist troops to kill as many Palestinians as they could. The outcome was 5 martyrs and approximately 30 wounded.

AL-BA'TH adds: Meanwhile, the Zionist leadership asked its organizations worldwide, particularly in the United States, to launch a large-scale campaign against the U.S. news media that carried this report and against the U.S. State Department officials who adopted it. The Zionist organizations' reaction was fast so they held their conference in occupied Jerusalem and justified the Zionist troops' crimes.

It is strange that the new Zionist campaign to justify the occupation army's crimes is based on considering the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Israeli territories and that the Zionist army is exercising a legitimate right, according to Zionist law, in pursuing Palestinians who reject occupation.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH affirms that Israel's behavior and repressive measures against the Palestinian people which defy all international norms and human rights can only be stopped by an effective, integrated Arab stand and solidarity capable of compelling the world to adopt a true stand entailing diplomatic and economic boycott of Zionists.

Since the battle of the uprising is continuing in the occupied homeland, Arabs are urged to provide the minimum level of efforts and sacrifices to prompt the United States to apply its human rights law on the entity that derives its continuity from U.S. support and bases its crimes on the false propaganda of Zionist organizations. These organizations are penetrating deep into Western society.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Alliance Holds Shura in Rawalpindi

BK1002133089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 10 (AFP)—A crucial mujahidin assembly aimed at choosing a broad-based Afghan government opened here Friday [10 February] 90 minutes late and without representatives of Shi'ite Afghan rebel groups based in Iran.

About 350 of the 526 invited delegates attended the opening ceremony at a sprawling religious complex here, which was delayed due to continuing differences on how many seats to give the eight-party Iran-based alliance.

Resistance sources said the traditional assembly, known as a shura, would probably choose an interim government Saturday or Sunday. The session may be adjourned Sunday and reconvened a few days later, they added.

The sources said the Shi'ite groups had decided not to take part in the shura after rejecting an offer of 80 seats made by the seven-party Sunni resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The Shi'ite representatives, who had asked for 100 seats, were awaiting a plane back to Teheran, informed sources said.

The assembly was being held in a heavily-guarded complex here where pilgrims gather before going to Mecca.

Mojadeddi Chairs Meeting

BK1002142289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The historic session of the consultative council of Afghan mujahidin began in Islamabad [as heard] this afternoon. Professor Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, the chairman of the seven-party Afghan alliance, is presiding over the session, which opened amid the echoes of full-throated slogans for Afghan unity. The session is being attended by more than 400 delegates, including the leaders and workers of the seven-party Afghan alliance. Some representatives of the Iran-based eight-party Afghan alliance are also attending the meeting, while some more members from Iran are still coming to attend the proceedings.

The consultative council is expected to discuss issues relating to an interim government in Afghanistan and the future course of action of the mujahidin after the completion of the Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan.

First Session Adjourns

BK1002154289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The first historic session of the consultative council of Afghan mujahidin was held in Islamabad [as heard] this afternoon. Professor Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, the chairman of the seven-party Afghan alliance, presided over the inaugural session, which opened amid echoes of clapping and enthusiastic slogans for Afghan unity. The session was attended by more than 400 delegates, including the leaders and workers of the seven-party alliance. Several Afghan intellectuals and diplomats, who participated in the Afghan freedom struggle outside Afghanistan, and a considerable number of Afghan commanders fighting inside Afghanistan attended the session.

A source at the session told Radio Pakistan's correspondent that delegates from Iran have reached Islamabad, but they did not attend the inaugural session. After a closed-door meeting, the session was adjourned without the announcement of any decision about the next session.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent has learned that today's session has been postponed to utilize the opportunity to persuade the Iran-based mujahidin representatives to attend the session.

Shi'ites Boycott Assembly

BK1002143289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 10 (AFP)—A mujahidin assembly aimed at choosing a broad-based Afghan government adjourned here Friday [10 February] amid desperate efforts to persuade Iran-based Afghan rebel groups to participate, resistance sources said.

"The conference is being adjourned and time for its next session would be communicated later," a resistance source quoted the head of the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, as telling the participants.

"No Iran-based Afghan brothers attended" the meeting, said a leader of the Pakistan-based moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

The assembly, which began 90 minutes late, ended after little more than an hour, without selecting an interim government, the sources said.

Rebel sources said resumption of the traditional assembly, known as a shura, could be delayed for a few days so that mujahidin leaders could persuade the eight-party Shi'ite alliance based in Iran to attend.

About 350 of the 526 invited delegates attended the shura's opening ceremony at a sprawling religious complex here.

The sources said the Shi'ite groups had decided not to take part in the shura after rejecting an offer of 80 seats made by the Sunni resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The Shi'ite representatives, who had asked for 100 seats, were awaiting a plane back to Teheran, informed sources had said earlier.

The assembly was held in a heavily guarded complex here where pilgrims gather before going to Mecca.

'Row' Over Representation

LD1002152289 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 10, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin groups Friday began an important meeting to form an Islamic government, but it was postponed due to a disagreement on the allocation of seats in the "shura", consultative assembly.

The shura, originally planned to last three days in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, was adjourned because of a row over the number of seats the 8-party Iran-based Afghan coalition would get.

The spokesman for the group Muhammad Karim Khalili told reporters that his coalition will not participate in the council meeting, although unconfirmed reports said some representatives of the Iran-based groups participated in the shura meeting.

The leader of the Pakistan-based alliance Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, in discussion in Tehran last week, agreed that the 8-party alliance should have 100 members in the shura, but aparently four Peshawar-based groups objected to the decision and offered only 60 seats.

A spokesman for Mojaddedi said the shura meeting would be adjourned "indefinitely" until the mujahidin groups agreed on a new compromise formula.

In Tehran Friday prayers Chief Justice Musavi-Ardibili urged mujahidin leaders not to endanger their unit by ignoring the rights of other resistance groups.

"Don't start thinking about eliminating other groups or allowing one group to take all the shares and not give any to the others," he addressed the Mujahidin from the mass prayer-gathering.

Mujahidin representatives have said that rumors speaking about replacement of Mojadeddi by Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammad, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, were false.

Details of Shura, Closing

BK1002153089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 10 (AFP) - A crucial mujahidin assembly aimed at choosing a broad-based Afghan government adjourned here Friday [10 February] after Afghan rebel groups based in Iran boycotted the proceedings.

The traditional assembly, known as a shura, had been expected to last until Sunday, resistance sources said, but adjourned after little more than an hour.

A participant in the shura, Hamid Karzay, later confirmed that "no date has been set for the resumption of the shura." [passage omitted]

The meeting, being held at the hajj complex here, where pilgrims gather before going to Mecca, opened after considerable confusion, with some moderate mujahidin leaders announcing a postponement of the shura Friday morning, referring to "last-minute problems."

The sources said the Iran-based Shi'ite groups had decided not to take part in the shura after rejecting an offer of 80 seats made by the Sunni resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The Shi'ite delegates, who had asked for 100 seats, had left for Teheran, informed sources said, adding that a representative was staying behind who might take part in negotiations.

Other sources said the Iran-based Shi'ites decided to boycott the meeting after failing to reach agreement on the composition of the interim government tHe Shura was to endorse.

Sources said efforts had continued overnight to persuade the Iran-based Shi'ites to join in the shura.

The seven Peshawar-based mujahidin groups each had 60 seats, while the remaining seats were reserved for the eight-party Iran-based group and three smaller guerrilla groups that were not part of the Peshawar alliance, a resistance spokesman said.

The shura is to choose a 28-member mujahidin government to replace the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah.

The Pakistani Army was patrolling outside the hajj complex, which was chosen because it is outside the city where security could be assured.

Mujahidin officers, wearing camouflage uniforms and carrying Kalashnikovs, patrolled inside the complex, asking shura participants to leave weapons at the entrance. Some 300 journalists were allowed in for about 10 minutes.

The seven chiefs of the Peshawar alliance's component parties were seated on a raised platform while the likely head of their interim government, Ahmad Shah, sat in the front row, witnesses said.

The meeting started with a recitation from the Koran and a brief speech by alliance leader Sibghatullah Mojadeddi after noting that the interim government would be in place for six months.

After that the country would go to the polls to elect a legislative assembly, he said.

He admitted to differences among the rebel parties on the question of elections, which he said many believed went against Islam. But he said: "You are here to freely express your opinion."

He then handed the chairmanship of the shura to a moderate colleague, Nabi Muhammadi of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami Afghanistan party.

A mujahidin spokesman denied that Mr. Mojadeddi had been replaced as the leader of the alliance. Fundamentalist leaders had strongly criticized Mr. Mojadeddi for going to Tehran to negotiate with Shi'ite mujahidin groups.

Mr. Muhammadi told the gathering that the nation was passing through a crucial juncture. "The time has come to find ways to restore peace after prolonged war," which claimed about 1.3 million casualties, he added.

Most of the mujahidin commanders who have fought for more than nine years against Soviet and Afghan forces in Afghanistan were absent from the shura, observers noted.

The mujahidin forbade members of the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to attend the shura.

Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnaze had Saturday repeated his insistence during a brief visit to Islamabad that the PDPA be allowed to participate in the shura.

The conference was also attended by former diplomats, technocrats, Afghan intellectuals and representatives of some five million refugees living in Pakistan, the United States, the Middle East and some European countries.

Mujahidin Enter 5 Villages North of Kabul

BK1002160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have entered five villages north of Kabul. The Kabul authorities have announced a plan to evacuate these villages.

Another report indicates that the Kabul regime has recalled 45,000 reserve soldiers in addition to 30,000 ruling party workers, who have been equipped with weapons.

Meanwhile, the withdrawal of the Soviet troops is continuing. The Soviet news agency TASS has said that paratroopers and several armored and infantry units have crossed the bridge linking the Haraytan area of Afghanistan with the Soviet town of Termez. According to a Soviet spokesman, the mujahidin are not attacking the withdrawing Soviet troops, but they are conducting rocket attacks on Kabul and shelling Qandahar airport.

The mujahidin have also conducted rocket attacks on security posts in Lashkar Gah, Ghazni, Herat, Balkh, Parvan, and Nangarhar. They are also trying to block the highway which leads to Kabul.

Soviets Pull Out of Bagram; Bombing Continues

LD0902211689 Tehran IRNA in English 2048 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] London Feb. 9, IRNA—The Soviets are preparing to pull-out of Bagram the biggest military airport in Afghanistan, according to mujahidin sources in London.

AFGHAN AGENCY PRESS (AAP) monitored here thursday reported that mujahidin commander 'Ustad Fatah Muhammad Khan of Parwan has said Soviet troops stationed at surrounding military posts have been moved to the airport.

The Soviet move follows attack in the nearby area of Sanj Dara [name spelling as received] on February 2, in which 13 Marxist troops were killed and 60 captured by the mujahidin who also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

AAP added, the Soviets who have promised to withdraw from Afghanistan by February 15 continued their heavy bombing of southern areas of Salang Pass devastating both sides of the highway.

Armed Forces Combat Operations 7-8 Feb

LD0902185289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The extremists who have carried out armed activities in a number of the country's provinces faced crushing replies from the courageous Armed Forces. As a result, 27 extremists were killed, 50 were injured, and a large number of their weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

A reliable Armed Forces source described the military situation in the country over the last 24 hours to the BAKHTAR military section.

Parvan: As a result of retaliatory fire by the security forces in response to shelling by the robbers, and as result of mopping up operations, four extremist positions in (?Selseleh-ye Khvajeh 'Emran) and their fortifications were seized by the Armed Forces. During this operations one member of the security forces was martyred and another was injured; 70 boxes of ammunition and 1 vehicle belonging to the extremists were seized. As a result of a search carried out in Tajekha village and the (Bagh-e Lala) area, 35 rocket missile shells, 2 Kalashnikovs, 2 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, and 2 boxes of ammunition for Kalashnikov and heavy machineguns, were seized by the security forces.

Nangarhar: The extremist groups fired heavy weapons on security posts and residential areas between Sorowbi and Jalalabad city. The artillery forces retaliated. During this operation 12 extremists were killed and 6 were injured. Two rocket missiles, one weapons and ammunition depot, two recoilless guns, and five strong extremist positions were destroyed. Moreover, as a result of moping up operations carried out west of Sar Kand Ow Baba Ziarat, 2 boxes of ammunition for heavy machine guns, 5 rockets, 17 anti-personnel mines and heavy machine guns belonging to the extremists were seized by the security forces. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway is open to traffic.

Qandahar: As a result of retaliatory fire by the artillery forces carried out in response to attacks by extremist groups in the surroundings of Qandahar, 3 of these saboteurs were killed and a 122-mm artillery piece belonging to them was destroyed.

Acccording to another report, as a result of a mopping up operation carried out in a region 5km from Daman district, 23 strong terrorist hideouts and 5 dugouts were destroyed; 110 mortar mines, 200 rounds of DShK ammunition, a number of Kalashnikov's magazines, and 2 boxes of hand grenades were seized by the security forces.

Helmand: During the day, extremist heavy weapons fire on security posts and residential houses in Lashkar Gah city, did not cause any losses.

Ghazni: The extremists fired 10 shells from heavy weapons on Ghazni city which did not cause any loss.

Khowst: As a result of heavy weapons shelling on Khowst city, and the Gorbaz, Kakan, and Jaji Meydan subdistricts, one of the inhabitants was martyred and seven people were injured by the extremists.

Herat: A number of surface-to-surface missiles and mortars were fired on the city today which the security forces replied to. Two men attached to so-called Hizballah group and five men attached to the Jamiyat group were killed, and five other men were injured. One rocket missile and two light weapons belonging to the extremists were destroyed. Four members of the security forces were injured.

Balkh: The extremists fired six heavy weapons shells on Balkh district which did not cause any losses.

According to another report the process of youths joining the ranks of the Armed Forces is continuing. For example, 465 men reported to the relevant military commisariat in the capital and provinces during the past 24 hours and listed their names in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

Military Situation 8-9 Feb

LD0902153189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section, based on reports from a competent Armed Forces source, reported that the following security situation has prevailed in the country over the last 24 hours:

The units and companies of the Armed Forces remain at their permanent bases. With the exception of a number of small attacks by the extremists and incidents in some part of the country, which have been met with shattering blows by the Armed Forces, the situation throughout the country was calm. Following are details of the military situation in the country:

Nangarhar: In an attempt to disrupt the peace, extremist groups launched heavy weapons at security posts and residential areas in (Rodat) and Deh Bala, to which the security forces responded in kind. One security forces staff member was wounded in the incidents. The Kabul-Jalalabad highway is open to traffic, and the traffic flow is normal.

Paktia: The extremists launched seven rocket missile rounds at security posts and residential areas around Gardeyz city and fired heavy weapons at Khowst city and Jaji Meydan. Shattering blows by the Armed Forces neutralized their attacks. No losses resulted from these incidents.

Ghazni: As a result of heavy weapons fire by the terrorist groups in Ghazni city, four members of the security forces personnel were wounded.

Qandahar: As a result of artillery retaliatory attacks in response to heavy weapons launched by the armed extremists at Towr Kowt, 12 terrorists were killed and 5 were wounded. Three recoilless guns, two Chinese mortars, and a number of their strongholds were destroyed and eliminated. One member of the security forces was killed and one was wounded.

Helmand: The extremists launched heavy weapons at Lashkargah city as a result of which one security staff was martyred and two others were wounded. The situation in the rest of the country and provinces is calm.

According to another report, 436 of the country's youths have joined the Armed Forces during the past 24 hours.

Reports state that after the operations which were carried out around Salang, Gulbuddin [leader of Hezb-e Eslami] is attempting to further weaken the group of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in the region and further his own control. In line with this, clashes have recently taken place between the two groups in the region and there have been losses. Reports also add that in Vardak Province alone, as a result of 3 days of clashes between individuals of the Jamiyat and Gulbuddin groups, 200 people of the first group were killed.

160 Die in Rebel Clashes

LD0902185489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Heavy clashes which took place between groups of extremists on 26 January and which are still continuing in parts of Takhar Province have left more than 160 dead and 50 wounded.

The clashes are between extremist groups under the command of Sayfuddin and Qayum, which are attached to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Sayyed Jamal, and (Eshan Merza). These groups are in turn attached to Engineer Bashir's group, which is directly linked with the Gulbuddin extremist group.

The BIA military section reports that Qayum, a ringleader of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's group, was killed during the clashes, which stem from the distribution of goods stolen from Takhar. The clashes are reported to have taken place in the villages surrounding Taloqan city and in the regions of (Nehr-e Chaman) and (Badam Dara).

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Holds News Conference

LD0902182189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Major General Muhammad Asef Delawar, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, took part in a news conference at 1600 today in the ballroom of Melma Pal Hotel and replied to questions from foreign and domestic correspondents.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that the chief of general staff spoke of the Armed Forces' heroism in ensuring peace and security in the country and the combat readiness of the Armed Forces and the PDPA members for defending the country on their own.

He briefed correspondents on foreign interference and the arming, equipping, and financing of armed extremists in Pakistan and that country's violations of the Geneva accords.

At the press conference the chief of general staff answered the questions of foreign journalists who have come to Kabul to report on the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingent.

Threatens 'Severe' Retaliation

BK1002020889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0137 GMT 10 Feb 89

[By Yves de Saint-Jacob]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 10 (AFP)—Kabul is ready to defend itself against a rebel attack, the head of the Afghan Army says, as the government continues its show of confidence in the face of the Soviet troop withdrawal.

Army High Command Chief Muhammad Asef Delawar threatened to meet a rebel attack on Kabul with a harsher counter-attack than those that have taken place in other cities.

He told a press conference here Thursday that the Afghan Army was ready to fight back any mujahidin offensive, having at its disposal "the men, the weapons and the combat spirit."

"The counter-attack will be more severe than at Qandahar or any of the other places we have defended for the past eight months," General Delawar said.

Gen. Delawar said the mujahidin had failed in past bids to capture and hang on to cities, and that the same would hold true for Kabul.

He also rejected as rumors rebel reports of defections among the troops and insisted that his forces would continue to play a political role.

The press conference was part of a recent psychological offensive aimed at showing the ability of the Kabul government to mobilize as Soviet troops withdraw from the country.

All Soviet troops are due to have left the country by next week.

The display began with President Najibullah's press conference on February 3 and continued with a demonstration by followers of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) on February 5.

Some 130 foreign journalists are currently in Kabul to cover the Soviet withdrawal, which was to be completed by February 15 in accordance with a U.N.-brokered accord signed in Geneva last April by Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Moscow, which sent troops into Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the communist PDPA government, and Washington, which arms the rebels, guaranteed the accords.

The Pakistan-based rebels have refused to share power with PDPA members, but the government affirms that it cannot be excluded from an eventual coalition.

Moscow has recently been seeking a political accord with the mujahidin, which would at least imply the loss of the monopoly of power held by the PDPA.

In the latest bid, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Pakistan this week ahead of a rebel assembly called for Friday to form an interim government.

Apparently, Mr. Shevardnadze left empty handed.

The Afghan Government has also been trying to show that the situation in Kabul remains calm.

At a meeting arranged Thursday, correspondents of the state-run media asked foreign journalists to "describe reality."

Kabul is calmer than it was in mid-1988, but a rocket attack left seven dead and 21 injured Wednesday and on Tuesday one girl was killed in another attack.

No attacks were reported Thursday.

But there are reports that the mujahidin have called on residents to evacuate areas around the airport before rocket attacks are stepped up again.

Diplomats say the reports could be true, adding that the airport would be the logical target of mujahidin attacks, as it will become in the next few weeks the main route for Soviet aid to Kabul.

Tanay Reaffirms Armed Forces' Capability
LD1002093289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 10 Feb 89

["Press Review"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 9, BAKHTAR—Daily ANIS front paged statement of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan on ensurance of peace on Kabul-Hayratan highway which plays a vital role in transfer of primary goods and fuels to Kabul citizens. The statement asks the residents who live along the highway to send their chieftains and representatives to the leaders of the extremists to give up robbing the convoys of goods and fuels. If the extremists refuse the peace proposals of the people they will be responsible for the consequences.

ANIS printed assertions of Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU CC and foreign affairs minister of the Soviet Union at a press conference held at the end of his official visit to Islamabad.

ANIS carried an interview with Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection to the duties of the personnel of the government's Armed Forces in full defence of the country after complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

In his interview the Afghan defence minister stated that the heroic armed forces having high combat morale are capable to inflict heavy blows on the extremists at any time anywhere in the country.

"British MPs support Afghan peace stand" is title of a report covered by daily KABUL TIMES. It runs:

A meeting was held recently on Afghanistan in the British Parliament. Members of British Parliament, representatives of mass media, heads of political organisations in Britain and Ahmad Sarwar charge d'affaires of Afghan Embassy in that country participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Rani Cumble, a member of the British Parliament condemned the decisions of Western countries on closing their embassies in Afghanistan and called it part of the psychological war against the people of Afghanistan. He urged the members of parliament of that country to persuade the British Government to play a positive role in the peace talks on Afghanistan.

KABUL TIMES writes: "Ulema, clergymen and chieftains of the different regions of Mazar-e Sharif city through a grand jirgah which was held yesterday at the hall of Mazar-Hotel, announced necessary measures for defending of their villages.

"India Supports Afghan Government Policies", "Iran Favours Peaceful Political Settlement in Afghanistan" and "Nobel Peace Prize Proposed for Gorbachev" are other major topics carried by KABUL TIMES.

Pakistan Said Amassing Troops Along Border
BK1002112689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 10 (AFP)—Afghanistan's top diplomat in India warned here Friday that Kabul would seek military assistance from the Soviet Union in the event of a Pakistani attack.

Afghan Ambassador 'Abdul Samad Azhar accused Pakistan of massing troops on the two countries' common border and said Kabul would ask Moscow for military help in the event of a war.

Intensified overt and covert assistance to the mujahidin by Islamabad could presage an open attack by Pakistan, he told a news conference at his embassy here.

Mr. Azhar said Kabul would launch major military offensives after the winter to try and smash mujahidin-led blockades on Afghan highways which have caused acute food and fuel shortages in cities and towns in recent weeks.

He said bilateral treaties between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union had provisions for weapons supplies from Moscow to the Afghan Army after the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal by February 15.

Kabul would also continue to receive civilian supplies from the Soviet Union after the Soviet withdrawal deadline, the diplomat said.

Moscow began supplying surface-to-surface Scud missiles and large consignments of small- and medium-range weapons and military spare parts to the Afghan Army last November.

Western diplomats estimate that the Soviet Army has launched 84 Scud missiles since November at suspected rebel targets in Afghanistan.

Mr. Azhar's statement came a day after Moscow said Islamabad was massing its troops at the Afghan borders, and warned that any attempt to bar the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) from a future coalition government in Kabul would mean a continuation of "fratricidal war."

Iran- and Pakistan-based mujahidin rebels have refused to join a coalition government in Kabul, demanding that the Moscow-backed regime of President Najibullah quit first.

Mr. Azhar said the PDPA could not be ignored in any future settlement in Afghanistan, adding that it was the only organised and the largest party in the country.

Pakistani Continued Support for Rebels Decried

LD1002092789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 9, BAKHTAR—The last soldiers of the Soviet Union will be leaving Afghanistan in conformity with Geneva agreements. The policy of national reconciliation has opened all the doors of peace and security to the people. The proposal of a broad (?based) coalition government provides the grounds for the just participation of all patriotic and political forces which are functioning inside and outside Afghanistan to serve their country. The formulation of such a government was unanimously confirmed by the 43rd resolution of the UN General Assembly as well as supported by the world public opinion.

However, contrary to the provisions of Geneva agreements as well as against the 43rd Resolution of the UN Geneva Assembly and without paying any heed to the destiny of Afghans, the Pakistani military men are keeping up their support of certain extremist groups and want to bring them to power in Afghanistan in order to gain their ominous intentions.

The question arises that what factors are behind the position taken by Pakistan. The answer to this question should be sought in the sinister policies followed by the former government which has been inherited by the present Pakistani Government.

Since long the Pakistani military men cherished the hope to establish a government in Afghanistan not to accept the so-called Durand line and as was said by General Ziaul Haq not to claim on the territory of Pakistan. Although General Ziaul Haq was killed in a mystic manner but his military men are still in power and are keeping up his policies. Thus, in this manner, they want to dismantle the unity of Afghanistan tribes and nationalities, to divide our country and to set up a government of their own choice in Afghanistan.

A government which would follow Islamabad, to form a confederation with Pakistan and to recognise the Durand line officially. This is a fact that even some of the opposition leaders stationed in Peshawar can not keep silence about it. The wrathful confessions made by Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, the periodical spokesman of the "seven-alliance" are a testimony to this bitter fact about the devilish and anti-Afghan intentions of the intelligence apparatus and the military circles of Pakistan.

Now that the Soviet soldiers leave Afghanistan the military-men and the espionage apparatus of Pakistan have become more and more active in attaining their anti-Afghan sinister objectives and are hatching conspiracies on the areas to be under their control in Afghanistan.

They think that there will [word indistinct] a vacuum of power after the complete withdrawal of the Soviet contingents and they will be able to achieve their ambitious wills.

Therefore, contrary to inter-state norms, the Geneva agreements as well as against the resolution made by the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly, the Pakistani military men want to form a so-called Consultative Council and to form the forthcoming government of Afghanistan merely with the composition of the "seven-alliance" and the "eight-alliance" and thus to negate the distinguished role of the national forces and the Afghan patriots inside and outside the country. But they are ignorant of the fact that the Afghan nation will never allow the enemy to encroach on their country and to divide it.

First Planeload of UN Aid Reaches Kabul

LD1002161689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The first Boeing 707 plane of Ethiopian Airlines, which was chartered by the coordinator of the UN humanitarian and economic assistance programme to transport UN economic assistance to Afghanistan, arrived in Kabul this afternoon.

The consignment of this plane, which includes 29.5 tons of wheat, was donated to the people of Afghanistan by the UN. This assistance is to continue.

Supply Department Announcement on Food Rations
LD0902180389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Announcement by the Supply Maintenance Department of the Ministry of Commerce]

[Text] The citizens of Kabul are aware that as a result of actions by armed opposition groups who have been obstructing the transport of primary consumer goods for some time, the distribution of rationed supplies, including flour, was temporarily held up.

Despite the present problems and difficulties the Supply Maintenance Department recently distributed 1 months ration of flour to workers and staff at some state establishments, to the disabled, and to the families of martyrs.

From 11 February, rations for people holding coupons for the month of Dalw [February-March] will be distributed each day in turn. The first phase will be administered through ration coupon shops in the city's establishments, the then through city ration coupon shops.

The Supply Maintenance Department announces that the share of rationed flour and other rationed supplies for other months, which have not been supplied so far, will be supplied in the future.

Bangladesh

Japanese Delegation Meets President Ershad
OW0702200889 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Dhaka, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japan hopes to reduce the existing trade gap with Bangladesh through increased imports and other means, a leading Japanese businessman said here Tuesday.

Kikuo Ikeda, president of Nippon Koei Co. and also president of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, told a press conference that Japanese business is "aware of the situation and desirous of reducing the trade imbalance."

Ikeda is leading a 40-member delegation of Japanese business people and entrepreneurs to the fourth meeting of the two countries' joint committee which concluded its two-day deliberations today.

The leader of the Japanese delegation asked Bangladeshi exporters to undertake market surveys in Japan to learn specific consumer needs and boost their country's exports.

While praising the recent formation of a board of investment in Bangladesh, Ikeda asked authorities here for measures to reduce investment-related risks.

He said that accumulated Japanese private investment in Bangladesh is in the neighbourhood of 11 million dollars. Most Japanese investment is in the public sector—like fertilizer and steel mills.

Ikeda expressed the hope that Japanese investment in Bangladesh will grow in future as confidence builds among entrepreneurs.

Earlier in the day, the visiting Japanese delegation called on Bangladesh President H.M. Ershad at the president's Secretariat. Ershad said Bangladesh "looked forward to increased participation of the Japanese private sector in joint ventures," the official BSS NEWS AGENCY said.

Ikeda told President Ershad that Japanese investors would take advantage of a liberal investment policy in Bangladesh, BSS reported.

India

Australian Prime Minister Arrives on 4-Day Visit
BK0902080089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, arrived in New Delhi today to a warm welcome. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, some of his cabinet colleagues and other dignitaries received him at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House].

Talking to newsmen, Mr Hawke welcomed the idea of closer cooperation among the countries of the region for overcoming protectionist policies of the major trading blocs. He said these blocs are pursuing policies which are against the interests of countries like India and Australia.

Mr Hawke is calling on the president this afternoon. He will also have his first round of talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. During his 4-day visit, three agreements relating to telecommunications, railways, and meteorology are expected to be signed. He will also deliver the Indira Gandhi memorial lecture.

Meets With Gandhi, Venkataraman
BK0902155489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Australia is to give development assistance of $35 million to India. During his talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today, the Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, said that this significant raise in the development assistance reflects his country's desire to further strengthen its relations with India. The delegations of the two countries led by their prime ministers met for about an hour. This was followed by talks between Mr Hawke and Mr Gandhi without aides for another 2 hours.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the talks, which will be continued tomorrow, an official spokesman said that an agreement on concessional finance from Australia to India is also on the anvil. The two countries are to sign tomorrow three memoranda of understanding in the fields of telecommunications, railways, and meteorology.

Earlier, the Australian prime minister called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today. During their 40-minute talks the two leaders discussed bilateral relations—including economic cooperation—changes in the international climate, and developments in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Bob Hawke also called on the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Talks Continue; Banquet Held

BK1002041889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has had wide-ranging talks with the visiting Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, in New Delhi. [passage omitted] At the talks, the two leaders covered bilateral, regional and international issues.

Describing Mr Hawke's visit as timely in view of the changing international situation, Mr Gandhi said both the countries share common aspirations of democracy, human rights, and disarmament. Both are also committed to bringing about a more equitable international economic order.

Referring to his recent visit to Islamabad, Mr Rajiv Gandhi told Mr Hawke that there are now prospects for speedier normalization of relations with Pakistan. About his China visit, Mr Gandhi said we are looking forward to a steady improvement in relations with that country. Mr Gandhi also briefed Mr Hawke on India-U.S. relations. At the plenary session, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, gave an account of the discussions on the Cambodian situation during his visits to Bangkok and Jakarta.

Later, at a banquet hosted by Mr Rajiv Gandhi in honor of the visiting dignitary, the two leaders called for freeing the Indian Ocean of foreign bases and naval presence. Mr Gandhi said India looks forward to working with Australia in encouraging the momentum toward nuclear disarmament. Mr Hawke said his country is committed to the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

Holds News Conference

BK1002091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] India and Australia are to hold regular consultations at the official level on nuclear disarmament in a bid to reduce tensions in the region. This was disclosed by the Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, at a news conference in New Delhi this morning. He said the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, had responded favorably to a similar proposal during his recent visit to Islamabad.

Mr Hawke said that he and his Indian host have agreed that any further buildup of nuclear capacity in this region will be a tragedy as there is global lessening of tensions and reduction of nuclear arsenals. He expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will utilize the present opportunity for better bilateral relations.

Replying to a question, the Australian prime minister said Mr Rajiv Gandhi's recent visit to Beijing has generated considerable ground for optimism of improved Sino-Indian relations.

Asked about India-Australia economic cooperation, Mr Hawke said several new areas have been identified to correct the present imbalance of trade. Engineering goods and automobile parts have a great scope for imports from India. The offer will involve joint ventures for exports to the East Bloc countries also. In addition, Australia is also willing to provide training facilities for Indian sportsmen.

Replying to a question, the Australian prime minister said that he had discussed with Mr Gandhi India's recent acquisition of a nuclear submarine and its naval capacity buildup.

The Australian prime minister expressed the hope that peace will return to Afghanistan and a stable government will be formed there.

He said Fiji may not be able to get reentry into the Commonwealth because of the conditions prevailing in the island nation.

Trade Exchange With GDR To Continue in Rupees

BK0802160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic have agreed to continue their trade in Indian rupees beyond 1990. A protocol to this effect was signed in New Delhi today by the two countries at the conclusion of the 8th session of the joint commission for scientific and technical cooperation.

Both the countries were of the view that the existing long term agreement has been very useful. They have agreed to diversify and enlarge trade in various sectors. They have also decided to finalize shortly the proposed agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

Gandhi, Tamil Nadu Minister Discuss Sri Lanka

BK0902134789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today and discussed with him the financial needs of his state and the Sri Lankan issue. Dr Karunanidhi told a news conference later that he had asked for a detailed information on the situation in Sri Lanka and the Tamil problem there. After getting the brief from the Center he will again meet the prime minister tomorrow and discuss with him his proposals on the issue.

Replying to a question on the Cauvery River water dispute, the chief minister said he would initiate steps for negotiations with the Karnataka government very soon.

Heroin Worth 10 Million Rupees Seized in Imphal

BK1002050589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Heroin worth 1 crore rupees was seized at (More) in Imphal yesterday. According to police, three persons were arrested in this connection.

Madras Atomic Station Unit Synchronized

BK0902093689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The first unit of the Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam was synchronized this morning. The unit was shut down for annual maintenance in December.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1002102389 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—A senior Iranian leader Friday [10 February] urged Afghan mujahidin not to jeopardize their unity by ignoring the rights of any of the resistance groups to play a role in their future government.

"Don't you start thinking about eliminating other groups or allowing one group to take all the shares and not give any to the others," stressed Chief Justice Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili.

His remarks during Tehran's Friday prayers came as Afghan mujahidin gathering in Rawalpindi, near the Pakistan's capital Islamabad, were reportedly locked in a bitter dispute on the makeup of a shura, or council, to decide on an interim government.

"If you start thinking about these things you will be defeated." Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili warned the mujahidin. "There's no doubt about it."

He said now that "the second victory of Islam in our age" was near all those who have had a part in the jihad against the Soviet occupation force and the Moscow-backed Kabul regime must participate in the shura.

IRNA correspondent in Islamabad has learned that the eight-part coalition based in Iran is demanding 100 seats in the shura, a demand agreed in Tehran last week by the leader of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan, Sibghatullah Mojadeddi.

But the Afghan mujahidin news agency, AAP, which had earlier said the agreement was only for 80 seats, reported Friday that Mojadeddi had been replaced by Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, a member party of the Pakistan-based alliance.

The agency did not explain the move but sources said Mojadeddi's agreement with the mujahidin in Iran was "personal" and was unacceptable to the other groups in Pakistan.

The shura is scheduled to open this afternoon though talks on the formation of a government may be postponed.

"My mujahidin brothers... don't you start thinking that now is the time to lay down your arms and divide the spoils, or else you will receive a blow (from your enemies)," Chief Justice Musavi-Ardabili said.

On the peace talks with Iraq which may resume Friday in New York between the two country's foreign ministers, Musavi-Ardabili called on the U.N. Security Council and secretary general to "act upon their commitments" and stop Iraq from delaying further the implementation of Resolution 598.

Musavi-Ardabili said the U.N. should show "a bit of firmness and determination and... not to make the people more disappointed and anxious than they already are."

The U.N. had repeatedly accused Iran of blocking the path of peace before the acceptance of Resolution 598 last July but now it seemed the organization and its officials "had caught a cold and were short of breath."

"Can't they see who is the obstructor now? Who is the one who is still refusing to retreat from the land of others? Who is the one that has to take steps (toward implementing the resolution) but finds a baseless excuse everyday?" the chief justice asked.

The last meeting of Iranian and Iraqi delegations led by Foreign Ministers 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva in November failed to achieve substantial progress on following up the implementation of the resolution.

The Islamic Republic has emphasized that the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran should be the next step forward.

On domestic issues, the chief justice hailed Imam Khomeyni's pardoning of large numbers of prisoners convicted in connection with anti-revolutionary activities. In particular he praised the imam's order that the freed prisoners should be allowed to find work. In the past local officials in various parts of the country were unsure whether pardoned prisoners should be immediately allowed to work, he said.

"Insh'allah, the authorities of the Islamic system will treat them kindly and in a brotherly manner would encourage them by providing them with employment facilities," the imam's statement confirming the amnesty said Wednesday [8 February]. The chief justice also said since the imam's recent call, the judiciary had speeded up the processing of cases involving serious crime even though the judiciary's efforts had reduced the number of crimes in Tehran by a third between 1984 and 1988.

Giving a number of examples, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said that in two cities a number of criminals found guilty of child-theft and rape had been hanged in front of crowds of 20,000 and 30,000, days after their arrest and trial.

He repeated that the judiciary was giving priority in dealing with criminals charged with narcotics smuggling, prostitution, hostage-taking, armed robbery and "economic terrorists."

During the last two weeks a Tehran resident with a fortune worth rials 23 billion (dlrs 328.6 mn) was ordered to pay his rials 1.1 billion debt to the banks.

The man, whom the chief justice did not name, also offered to "donate" half of his remaining wealth the families of martyrs and the disabled of the war in return for keeping the rest.

But the chief justice advised the judge involved to confiscate any amount of wealth gained through illegitimate means.

Also a Tehran jeweler "whom all or most of you know by name" was fined rials 2 billion (dlrs 28.6 mn) for "smuggling the country's wealth out of the country and a life-time of links with the former corrupt (Pahlavi) court."

For some time the case was being investigated and only last week concluded with a court ruling.

Khamene'i Addresses Diplomats on Cease-Fire

LD0902180989 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—The Islamic Republic cannot for long tolerate the status quo of the Iran-Iraq peace talks or to state more clearly the non-implementation of U.N. Resolution 598, warned President 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday.

Speaking to the foreign diplomatic corps in Tehran, Khamene'i called on peace-loving governments around the globe to pressure the Baghdad regime to abide by Security Council Resolution 598.

Despite three rounds of face-to-face talks between the two countries' foreign ministers following the August 20 ceasefire, the second part of Article 1 of 598 is still to be implemented.

Following ceasefire Article 1 calls for withdrawal of forces to international borders, but the refusal of Iraq which occupies 2,000 square kms of Iranian soil, has blocked progress of the peace talks.

The meeting was on the occasion of the Ten-Day Dawn (February 1-11) marking the first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory.

Cho Kyu-il, the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and dean of the diplomatic corps in Tehran, describing the Islamic revolution as a "historical event" congratulated President Khamene'i on behalf of the gathering.

Khamene'i also said the Islamic Republic welcomes bids by countries interested in Iran's rehabilitation projects.

Velayati, Iraqi Counterpart To Meet in New York

LD1002093189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0824 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] United Nations, Feb 10 (KUNA)—The foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran were poised for another round of face-to-face talks Friday [10 February] under the auspices of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Both ministers, Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq and 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, said they had no objections to the secretary-general's proposal for another round of such talks.

Asked specifically if the two ministers would meet face to face rather than separately with the secretary-general, Velayati said, the meeting would be conducted "just like in Geneva."

"We will be breathing the same air, [word indistinct] the same weather," Velayati told reporters at a reception on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati arrived here Thursday [9 February] and was to meet the secretary-general privately Friday morning. It was understood that face to face talks would follow during the afternoon.

'Aziz, who arrived here earlier this week, told reporters after meeting with the secretary-general Thursday morning he had no objections to another round of direct talks.

But judging from the experiences of the last six months, 'Aziz said he wasn't very optimistic and that the Geneva talks had been to a large extent fruitless.

'Aziz and the other side continues to refuse entering into discussions on substantive matters such as the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and the exchange of prisoners.

Asked about the prisoners issue at the reception, Velayati said he had announced Wednesday in Spain that some 260 sick Iraqi prisoners of war would be released. He said more releases would follow within the framework of Resolution 598.

That decision, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on July 20, 1987, urges in its third operative paragraph that prisoners of war be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities in acordance with the third Geneva convention of 1949.

The two sides agreed last August on a cease-fire and the deployment of a U.N. observer force (UNIIMOG) to monitor the cease-fire. But the exchange of prisoners [words indistinct] to the withdrawal of forces without delay to internationally recognised bounderies.

Elite Guards Said Involved in Iraqi Coup Attempt

LD0902140389 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 9, IRNA—An assassination plot against Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn as part of an abortive attempt to overthrow his regime last December was much more serious than initially imagined.

A U.S. newspaper report underlines the seriousness of the attempted coup from the fact that Saddam Husayn's elite guards, who are supposed to protect him, were involved in it.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES, in a dispatch from Cairo, said details of the coup attempt remained sketchy, but noted that the traditional Army Day in Iraq, celebrated every year on January 6, was "cancelled this year without explanation."

Quoting unnamed diplomatic and intelligence sources in Egypt, the daily dated the overthrow attempt around the beginning of January, but Iraqi sources in London say it was planned for end of December when Saddam was on a visit to Cairo.

The report in LOS ANGELES TIMES is considered to be the first to appear in the Western press. Last Sunday the London OBSERVER reported on a wave of mass executions of senior Army officers and government official in Iraq, but did not give details.

The American daily said as many as 200 Iraqis, including high-ranking Army officers, may have been executed following the coup attempt.

Due to rising discontent with the Saddam regime on account of worsening economic and social problems in Iraq, the paper was not surprised over the latest attempt on Saddam's life, as peace seemingly posed greater internal threat to his rule than external war.

A huge 70-billion dollar foreign debt incurred during the war with Iran and the problem with demobilisation of one of the world's largest Army which poses a threat to this regime, are added dilemmas for Saddam, the paper concluded.

CIA Reportedly 'Directing' Drug Trafficking

LD1002083789 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is directing and encouraging drug trafficking in Iran where a million people are addicted, a senior official in charge of the anti-drug drive said.

"The CIA plays the role of a strategist and encourages smugglers," said Mokhtar Kalantari first deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution's Committees.

"If advisable we will publish firm documents in this regard," he added in a press conference Thursday [9 February].

Kalantari said the CIA was in contact with drug dealers in Pakistan where part of the drugs distributed in Iran originates from. European government and intelligence agents were also involved in the business, he said.

Iran had offered to cooperate with Pakistan to curb the flow of drugs and was prepared to sign a formal agreement similar to the one signed with Turkey during Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's visit to Turkey earlier this month, the official added.

He also said there were 80 laboratories producing heroin in parts of Afghanistan where the central government had no control.

On the on-going anti-drug drive Kalantari said 105 traffickers and dealers had been hanged since 31 December. They were convicted based on previous laws and were not punished according to a new, tougher law that came into effect on 21 January.

Since the implementation of the new law 60 tons of drugs had been confiscated and 60 top traffickers arrested throughout the country. Also 10,000 addicts were believed to have started to kick their habit.

He said there were "a maximum of a million drug addicts" in the country and if the new law was carried out properly 80 percent of the problems would be solved in two years.

Kalantari said the anti-narcotics campaign was being waged on three fronts: firstly to close key border points especially in the east where most of the drugs enter Iran, secondly to punish traffickers and thirdly to rehabilitate addicts.

Anti-Narcotics Campaign Set for Pakistani Border

LD1002115989 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Zanjan, Feb. 10, IRNA—Islamic Revolution's Committee (IRC) will deploy a full brigade to start a campaign against drug traffickers along 110 kms of the Mirjaveh-Zabul road in southeast Iran near Pakistani border as of Monday.

Announcing this, imam's representative and IRC commander-in-chief Sarajeddin Musavi said the area has been declared a restricted zone with the approval of anti-narcotics campaign headquarters.

Since 1981, 200 tons of narcotics have been seized from armed gangs, said Deputy IRC Commander Mahmud Mirlohi recently. However, it was not clear how much of its was distributed in or transmitted through Iran.

Earlier over 500,000 Basij forces stationed in 24,000 resistance bases throughout the country declared their readiness to actively participate in the anti-drug drive.

The Soviet Union and Pakistan have promised to cooperate with Iran and a formal agreement with inked with Turkey to coordinate efforts to reduce the flow of narcotics between the two countries.

50 Prisoners Receive Amnesty, Released

LD0902192989 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Bushehr, Feb. 9, IRNA—Following Imam Khomeyni's amnesty orders on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, 50 more prisoners were set free in Borazjan (Bushehr prov.) Wednesday.

The prison terms of eight other convicts were commuted, and the clemency does not cover hard-core criminals or drug smugglers.

Thousands of convicts have been released all over Iran upon Imam Khomeyni's orders, while the sentences of several thousand others have been commuted. Lifers will now to serve 15 years.

Mojahedin Says 140,000 'Political Prisoners'

NC1002110189 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 10 (AFP)—The Mojahedin-e Khalq, Iran's main opposition group, claimed Friday that 140,000 political prisoners were currently being held in Iran.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq statement came two days after Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said an unspecified number of detainees would be set free.

The Baghdad-based organisation urged Mr Khomeyni to reveal the number of those who would be released under the general amnesty order for imprisoned members of political organisations and that the sentences and the charges they faced be made public.

The official Iranian media reported Wednesday that Ayatollah Khomeyni had agreed to a suggestion by his Intelligence and Internal Security Minister, Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, to an amnesty.

Mr Reyshahri said the order could be carried out because "counter-revolutionary factions were on the brink of total destruction" and Iran was "witnessing total stability." But he said 900 prisoners would not benefit from the measure.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Thursday in Madrid that a "large majority of prisoners" would be released under the amnesty, though he failed to say how many would be set free.

The Mojahedin said that international organisations should seek clarifications from Iran on the fate of 140,000 prisoners allegedly held in Iranian jails.

They also accused the Iranian authorities of pursuing a wave of executions against Mojahedin partisans and other political prisoners.

Firuz Saremi and Tabibi-Nezhad, Mojahedin militants, were hanged at the end of January in the northern Iranian city of Tabriz, while a total of 83 others were hanged in other locations, the Mojahedin statement said.

The Mojahedin have said that 12,000 political prisoners had been executed in Iran since the establishment last August of a U.N.-sponsored cease-fire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Last week the Mojahedin said they had sent the names of 1,500 alleged victims to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Velayati Urges Peaceful Transition in Afghanistan
PM0902122389 London ITV Television Network in English 1900 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Channel 4 "News" foreign affairs correspondent David Smith in London, monitored in progress in the framework of a Channel 4 "News" report on the influence of Iran on future government in Afghanistan; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Smith] The dilemma for the Soviets is obvious. If the mujahidin and the Iranians can agree to push on to Kabul—and that's a big "if"—then the chances are that only the phenomenal firepower the Soviets are leaving behind can save the Najibullah government in Kabul. So at this delicate moment, where does Iran stand? In London on a brief stopover, we spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. First of all, was he exerting pressure on the mujahidin to seek peace?

[Velayati] Yes. We try to persuade them to prevent the bloodshed or to making so-called bath [word indistinct] because that situation is not in the benefit of anybody, and we do hope that the transition of the government will be peaceful. Of course, we pursue it, and we use our influence and our good intention in this purpose.

[Smith] What sort of government, though, do you want to see in Afghanistan at the end of the day?

[Velayati] I think that on the base [as heard] of the mujahidin wishes, they are going to have an Islamic government in Afghanistan. That's what we could find out from our talks with them.

[Smith] An Islamic government on Iranian lines?

[Velayati] Oh, I don't know. Of course it depends on the decision of mujahidin and people of Afghanistan. We are not going to intervene to the internal affairs of Afghanistan, but after long talks that we have had with mujahidin and the leaders of mujahidin, that's what they want to have.

[Smith] What's going to happen if the Soviets refuse to accept an Islamic government in Afghanistan? Will you go on supporting the mujahidin?

[Velayati] You know that from the very beginning we have supported mujahidin very frankly, and near 2 million refugees still are in our country, and we have helped them till now, and we continue our help towards mujahidin. That's quite natural.

[Smith] Quite natural because an Islamic government in Kabul would represent a triumph of sorts for the ayatollahs. Yet Iran's increasing involvement does not promise peace. It's likely to make the mujahidin more divided than ever. If so, the Soviet withdrawal merely ends one stage in this war. The next—Afghan against Afghan—could be bloodier still.

Khamene'i Meets With African Officials 9 Feb
LD1002120889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received in separate meetings last night the secretary of the Algerian Liberal Party, Gabon's adviser to the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Zimbabwe's ministers of employment and parliamentary affairs, the Kenyan minister of education and technology, Ghana's minister of culture, Sierra Leone's minister of culture and physical education, and the Saharan minister of education, all of whom had come to Tehran to take part in the festivities marking the 10 Days of Dawn.

The report says that in the course of the meeting between Mr Khamene'i and the foreign guests participating in the festivities, the expansion and deepening of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the African countries was stressed. The need to expand cooperation between Third World countries, Iran's unceasing support for the Nonaligned Movement and its work for the liberation of Namibia and Angola, and Iran's support for the next session of the heads of the Frontline States, as well as its resistance against South Africa were also emphasized.

Education Minister, African Counterparts Meet
LD0802095089 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Iran's cultural, scientific and educational cooperation with Kenya and Sierra Leone were discussed in separate meetings between Iran's Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi and his visiting counterparts from the two countries Tuesday.

Peter Oloo-Aringo, Kenyan minister of education and technology expressed his country's willingness on an exchange programme of professors and students between Iran and Kenya and for purchase of educational equipment from Iran.

The Sierra Leonean Minister of Education, Cultural Affairs and Sports Musa Ibrahim [name as received] called for establishment of an agricultural school in his country with Iran's aid and also sought Tehran's help to improve educational and scientific situation in his country.

Najafi outlined Iran's new educational programmes and spelled out the dangers of cultural colonialism and ways to counter them.

The two visiting ministers from Africa arrived here Tuesday to take part in the ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

'Text' of Khomeyni Letter on 'Insulting' Program

NC1002093289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Following the program on the symbol of a Muslim woman, which was broadcast on the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran and used some profanities, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, sent a letter to Mr Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the imam's letter is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty:

Mr Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

It is a source of great regret that yesterday (Saturday, 8 Bahman) [28 January], a program on the symbol of woman was broadcast on the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran which one is ashamed of restating. The person who broadcast this program has been punished and expelled, and those responsible will also be punished. If it is proven that the insult was deliberate, then undoubtedly the insulter will be condemned to death. If such acts are repeated, then the officials of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be reprimanded and severely punished. Of course, in all cases, measures will be taken by the judiciary.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 29 January 1989

Note: In the radio program "The Symbol of a Muslim Woman" which was brroadcast on Saturday, 28 January 1989, which coincided with the birth anniversary of Fatima Zahra, peace be upon her, and with women's day, an interview was broadcast saying that, since the symbol for woman dates back 1,400 years, it is rejected, and the woman portrayed in a foreign television series was presented as the symbol for woman instead.

Musavi Returns to Tehran After Fars Tour

LD0902132289 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Feb. 9, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi returned to Tehran Thursday noon after a one-day inspection here of newly-established industrial and agricultural installations accompanied by the ministers of oil, energy, Construction Jihad and health.

In a meeting with members of the Administrative Council of Fars Province Wednesday, the prime minister said proper and complete utilisation and experienced management, was the only way to achieve self-sufficiency and to boost the country's economy.

Later, Musavi inspected an exhibition of productive and industrial units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and tribal jihad of Fars Province where he stressed that production capabilities of the tribes should be broadened.

RESALAT Editorial Assails 'Secret' Budget Bill

PM0902134589 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Jan 89 pp 1-11

[Editorial by Ahmad Tavakoli: "Secret Bill"]

[Text] The government a few days ago handed the Majlis a correction to the current budget. Obviously, some of the figures in the 1988 budget will change in accordance with the bill. In the meantime, the government has asked for an urgent discussion regarding the bill.

Bills dealing with the budget receive only one sitting. This means they are discussed only once in the appropriate commission and once in the public session of the Majlis. When the urgency of a bill is agreed on, it goes through the commission out-of-turn and quickly.

During the past few years, because of the way the budgets were organized, the government at year-end has had to present additions to the Majlis and every year the loans it took from the Central Bank have increased. In this sense, what the government did this year was not out of the ordinary. What is new, however, is that this year's corrective amendment went to the Majlis with "secret material" stamped on it.

Of course, according to Article 69 of the Constitution, the prime minister or one of the ministers or 10 Majlis deputies can ask parliament to hold a private and secret session. The article explains how this can be done: "Majlis proceedings must be public and their contents reported in full by radio, television, and the Official Gazette. In emergencies, when it is a question of the country's security, upon the request of the prime minister or one of the ministers or 10 Majlis members, a secret session of the Majlis may be held. The decisions of the secret session are valid only when the Council of Guardians is present and when the bills are passed and approved by three-quarters of the assembly. The full text of the secret proceedings must be made public once the emergency conditions are over."

One question now comes to mind: Seven budgets were passed in public sessions of the Majlis during the peak period of the war. There also were several amendments to the various budgets during the war. Now, after the cease-fire, after the acceptance of Resolution 598, and when the country has returned to more normal conditions, why should a secret amendment to the annual budget be forwarded to the Majlis?

An important military decision dealing with the early release of soldiers from military service was announced to the world this morning. This in itself indicates that the regime is returning to normalcy. Why, after 8 years of government work, do we now have to face the government's first secret bill?

From the discussions among the Majlis deputies on the urgency of the bill, it appears the government does not want the issue of new loans from the Central Bank to become public knowledge. Whatever loan this new amendment talks about cannot exceed the government's 1,000 trillion rial debt to the country's banks. Most of this loan goes back to the government's actions in recent years, which have been the main cause of inflation and currency devaluation. It is always the poor who suffer while the rich get richer.

On the other hand, the prime minister or the plan and budget or finance and economy ministers have the right to ask for a secret Majlis session. It seems there has been no official request and that so far there is only a "secret" stamp on the amendment. If the government does this or if it is undertaken by some of the deputies, it will have to be passed in the presence of the Council of Guardians and three-quarters of the Majlis, which means that at least 203 deputies must vote for the bill.

It has been said that some of the deputies unofficially are suggesting that the discussions be held in secret, but that the vote be taken in an open session, so that there would be no need for the Council of Guardians to be present or for the 203 positive votes. This contravenes Article 69 of the Constitution, as well as the internal rules of the Majlis, which are the country's most important common laws.

The Majlis does not just hold discussions, but it passes laws. Talk and discussions are only preliminary actions. It does not make any sense at all to have a closed session only for talks without having a vote.

To hold an unofficial closed session and then vote in an open session again contradicts the internal rules of the Majlis. According to Majlis internal rules, decisionmaking and voting follow a series of steps including a report from the appropriate commission, discussions for and against a given bill, and the necessary explanations from a member of the government. Breaking these rules in the passing of a bill, especially when it is the budget—one of the most important duties of the Majlis throughout the year—will, God forbid, create a bad impression of the country's law-making body.

Editorial on Bill Refuted

PM0902134789 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Jan 89 p 2

[Editorial by Deputy Prime Minister Seyyed Ata'ollah Mohajerani: "Not a Secret Bill"]

[Text] 1. There is an old story about Teymurtash, the court minister during Reza Shah's time, who was quite famous in his ways. He said one day that he was able to provide a thousand reasons why there is no God. A wise man, Mirza Taher Tonekaboni who heard this said he could prove it with just one reason. Teymurtash, who was amazed, asked how this was possible and what the reason could be? Tonekaboni replied: Your existence!

The existence of RESALAT's editorial, entitled "Secret Bill," proves the government's latest budget bill is not secret.

2. Two years ago, like today, there was a lot of pressure on the government. The confidential economic report of the Plan and Budget Ministry was published in RESALAT. The whole thing culminated in the imam's speech: One sees that sometimes the tone of voice being used is not that of giving advice. Pens are not used to give advice. The government is not the issue, it is the Islamic Republic. One sometimes sees that a written word can result in an incident in the bazaar, a price rise, a price fall, and so forth.

One who holds a pen in his hand must pay attention to the fact that the issue is not that of the individual, but of Islam and the Islamic regime. Our duty is to safeguard this regime. We should not wait for an opportunity, with pen in hand. If I have differences with the prime minister, or with Mr Khamene'i, I must not think of what my pen can do. This pen must not go out of control, do what it wants, or go where it wants. Keep your hands still for a moment, keep your pens quiet for a moment. Remember that not everything has to be written, not everything has to be published.

No doubt, managing a large country, especially under today's sensitive conditions, entails classified material in all military, political, economic, and intelligence areas.

What problem is solved by revealing the total debt of the government to the Central Bank or the banking system as a whole? The government's economic policies are based on laws regarding annual budget and are, without doubt, in the country's interest. Who benefits from revealing secret documents? Those Majlis deputies whose official mouthpiece is RESALAT are without a doubt more than 10 in number. They can at any time question the ministers in charge of financial affairs. They can even impeach the government. This "Western" method of opposing the government benefits whom?

3. The enemies of the revolution are trying to prove that the Islamic revolution has reached a deadend and is facing economic problems. So, this article, "Secret Bill," will help whom?

4. When a secret bill such as this is printed in this way in an internal newspaper, it is not difficult to see how similar documents find their way into the foreign press. It seems that in the Islamic Republic, if we want to publish a secret report, all we have to do is hand it to one of the deputies in the RESALAT clique.

Nepal

Foreign Minister Says Relations With India 'Good'

BK0802122689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 8 (AFP)—Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said relations between the Governments of Nepal and India were marked by "mutual understanding" and dismissed critical reports in the Indian press.

"There should be no effort from any quarter to spoil the existing good relationship between Nepal and India," Nepal's NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY (RSS) Tuesday quoted Mr. Upadhyaya as saying.

Political observers here have attached great significance to Mr. Upadhyaya's clarification on the state of Indo-Nepalese relations following reports in the Indian press attacking Nepal for imports of Chinese weapons to replace obsolete models used by the 24,000-strong Nepalese Army.

"Misleading publicity by some Indian newspapers aimed at intimidating the Nepalese psyche cannot be construed as the policy of the Indian Government," Mr. Upadhyaya told a gathering of 3,000 panchayat functionaries from Rupendehi District Monday.

"This mischief is the handiwork of an element in India which does not like the friendship and understanding between Nepal and India," he said without identifying the element.

"Nepal has not violated the 1950 peace agreement with India and she will not allow her territory to be used to harm any other country," the Nepalese foreign minister said.

Mr. Upadhyaya was speaking at Rupendehi District panchayat assembly in Bhairahawa southwest of the capital Monday, RSS said.

The partyless panchayat (parliament) is conducting a rotating convention in 14 zones dividing Nepal to review the current political, economic and social conditions in the country.

The convention is aimed at forging unity among the rank and file cadres of the partyless polity in 4,200 villages and 33 towns in Nepal and counter political challenges by anti-panchayat groups.

Pakistan

Afghan Mujahidin 'Shura' To Meet in Rawalpindi

BK0902141989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The historic meeting of the Afghan Shura—the Consultative Council—begins in Rawalpindi tomorrow. It will consider the future of Afghanistan after the total withdrawal of Soviet troops. This shura is expected to consider the setting up of a broad-based interim government in Afghanistan which represents all sections of Afghan society.

Alliance Spokesman Comments

BK0902160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The historic meeting of the Afghan mujahidin's consultative council—shura—begins in Rawalpindi tomorrow. It will consider the future of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops is completed. This shura is expected to consider the setting up of a broad-based interim government in Afghanistan which represents all sections of Afghan society.

A spokesman for the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance told newsmen in Rawalpindi this evening that Afghan mujahidin based in Iran, certain mujahidin commanders, certain former Afghan diplomatic representatives, lawyers, and U.S. and European scholars are attending the meeting.

The spokesman said the agenda is expected to include reconstruction of the country and rehabilitation of the Afghan people after the Soviet troop pullout. He thanked the Government of Pakistan, in general, and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in particular, for providing the people of Afghanistan with an opportunity to decide their destiny and formulate a future course of action.

The meeting is expected to last for 2 or 3 days.

Prime Minister To Leave for PRC on 11 Feb

BK1002040889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto is to leave on a 3-day official visit to China tomorrow at the invitation of Premier Li Peng. She will hold talks with Premier Li Peng and other PRC leaders and is expected to visit Shanghai in addition to Beijing. This will be the first official trip abroad by Ms Benazir Bhutto as the head of the Pakistani Government and it will serve as an opportunity to establish personal contacts with senior Chinese leaders and to promote closer ties between the two countries.

Pakistani Ambassador Akram Zaki told newsmen in Beijing that the prime minister would exchange views with PRC leaders on matters of bilateral interest, including Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan and the PRC would like to see the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul following the Soviet withdrawal.

He said that the two countries have multifaceted close relations which have stood the tests of time. He highlighted the various aspects of Pakistan-PRC relations and said that the present government is giving a new dimension to Pakistan's relations with China.

Interviewed by PRC Media

BK1002091389 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said the democratic government in Pakistan seeks relations with its neighbors and the world's major powers on the basis of sovereign equality, friendship, and cooperation. In an exclusive interview with the Chinese news media, the prime minister said Pakistan welcomes relaxation of tension at the regional and international level. It is confident that these positive developments would further strengthen peace, security, and stability in Asia and at the global level.

Referring to the Afghan problem, Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan has consistently maintained that there could only be a political settlement to the problem. The withdrawal of foreign troops is a basic prerequisite toward such a solution. Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the Afghan people would be able to exercise the right of self-determination, free from external interference and intervention.

In reply to a question about the prospects of the future of Pakistan-U.S. relations following Soviet withdrawal, the prime minister said Pakistan's relations with that country would continue to strengthen. This relationship is founded on a long-standing commitment to the peace and security of the region. The mutually supported U.S.-Pakistan relationship would continue to grow to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Turning to Pakistan-India relations, Ms Benazir Bhutto said she has held substantive discussions on bilateral relations with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. They have signed three cooperative agreements which have given a much-needed impetus to the process of normalizing relations based on mutual trust and confidence. The development of good and friendly relations between the two countries would further improve the overall political and security situation of South Asia.

The prime minister spoke highly of the Sino-Pakistan relations which have been tested over many years and are growing stronger with each passing year.

Ambassador Denies Nuclear Help From PRC

OW1002040589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Beijing, Feb. 10 KYODO—Pakistan Ambassador to China Akram Zaki denied media reports Thursday that Pakistan is developing nuclear weapons with help from China.

He said Pakistan is against the diffusion of nuclear weapons and the nuclear agreement concluded with China in 1986 is limited to peaceful uses.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have said the development of nuclear power by Pakistan and India is aimed at solving a shortage of energy resources, a problem in both countries.

The two countries agreed not to use nuclear force against each other in the future, Zaki said.

Armed Man Arrested in National Assembly Hall

LD0902174589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1604 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 9 (KUNA)—The security staff of the parliament building Thursday apprehended a middle-aged person while trying to take a pen pistol concealed in a stick into the National Assembly Hall while the assembly was in session.

The suspect had managed to pass the security staff at the entrance gate with the stick but was caught while taking it into the visitor's gallery in the assembly hall by another security man.

The gallery in which he was trying to enter with the concealed small weapon was about 12 yards from the seat of the prime minister.

Police was not giving the identity of the suspect but unofficial reports said he was a retired Army man named Zafaq Iqbal in his fifties of Kasur District in the Punjab.

He was being interrogated by top intelligence and security agencies of Islamabad in order to find his real motive. It was not immediately known whether he had brought the small weapon to use it on the prime minister or some other person in the assembly hall.

According to the official news agency, a small pistol was concealed in the stick. The security guard at the visitor's gallery became suspicious when he saw a loose screw on the metallic head of the stick and overpowered the suspect before he could enter the visitor's gallery. On opening the screw, the weapon was detected.

The exact calibre of the concealed weapon was not immediately known.